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SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 1997



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WORLD CUP FINAL

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: TICKETS, TICKETS AND MORE TICKETS the eye



set to Merson Boro



Mandelson spat takes the shine off Labour's party

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Labour celebrations on the eve of its first 100 days in power were overshadowed by questions about Peter Mandelson running the government while Tony Blair is on holiday in Tuscany.

Mr Mandelson, the minister without portfolio, came out fighting when he was questioned about his role on the World at One on BBC radio 4. which led to "dozens of listeners" telephoning the BBC to complain about his "overbearing, arrogant, pompous" performance. "We always get a steady stream of callers, but

about his interview," said a BBC source.

Mr Mandelson earlier attacked "vain-glorious self-indulgent questions" about the prominent role he has played since Mr Blair left to spend his summer holidays in the villa near Siena owned by Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Paymaster General.

delson spoke for the Government on the future of the

BBC radio that he was becom-

Although he is not a member of the Cabinet, Mr Mandelson has been in charge of handling the Government's public relations since the news broke last weekend about Robin Cook's affair with his secretary. Mr ManChris Patten, and chaired a press whether they were going to ex- about Mr Mandelson's role in conference for Lord Simon, the ercise "a little responsibility" af the Government. Mr Mandelson trade minister, to announce he was selling his £2.3m BP shares

ing the "face of the Government". Mr Mandelson retorted: There you go again," he said. "You can't get off the subject." Questions about Mr Mandelson's role also are causing fric-

tion between the Government and the Liberal Democrats since Mr Blair gave Paddy Ashdown and key lieutenants seats on a special Cabinet committee.

Mr Mandelson, an architect of the links, warned the Liberal Democrats at the press con-

ter being brought into the Government by Mr Blair. "I When it was suggested on think the jury is out about what they are going to do."

That was seen as a threat to the Liberal Democrats to toe the Government line. Government sources said Mr Mandelson was aware of split in the Liberal Democrats about whether it was a good or bad thing to join the Government on the committee, and he was developing that debate.

But Liberal Democrat sources said it was retaliation against Norman Baker, a Liberal Democrat MP who has raised a

the Government. Mr Mandelson was said to be "deeply irritated" last weekend when Mr Baker's questions led to reports that Mr Mandelson had not spoken in the Commons for a year.

"He is their political warfare minister and he is getting his re-

"This goes back to Parliament and the hundreds of questions that Norman Baker put down, getting him to spell out that he hasn't spoken in the House since mid-1996. He was very deeply irritated about that," a Liberal Democrat source said. Labour's first 100 days, page 12

Leading article, page 13

Anger over Grobbelaar court costs

A row broke out over the failed multi-million pound prosecution of alleged match-fixing in football after former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was yesterday cleared of accepting a £2,000 bribe. The verdict, directed by Mr Justice McCullough after a Winchester jury failed to agree, ended claims of widespread betting corruption that have hung over English football for three years.

As Mr Grobbelaar, currently without a team, described his ordeal as "hell", an MP asked whether it had been right to proceed with an investigation that has led to two long trials and, according to some estimates costs of up to £20m. Labour MP Tam Dalyell, who is tabling Commons questions to discover how much public money was spent, said: "The whole thing has been quite preposterous and especially the decision to hold a second trial after the first one ended without agreement by the jury. As someone ... who saw the TV and video clips of Grobbelaar ... I cannot magine how it could be suggested

There was also anger that the judge refused costs to defendants John Fashanu, a former Wimbledon player, and exteam-mate Hans Segers, both cleared with Mr Grobbelaar and businessman Heng Suan Lim on Thursday of conspiracy to throw matches.

Mr Justice McCullough said: "It seems clear Mr Fashanu's own conduct brought suspicion on himself and led the prosecution into thinking the case



Grobbelaar celebrating with

his wife yesterday John Voos against him was stronger than it was." It is also understood the Inland Revenue may investigate unpaid tax in football after the court heard that players had been accepting money legally to forecast matches for an Indonesian gambling syndicate.

The Football Association has already announced an inquiry into match-forecasting and betting and confirmed last night that it would examine whether Mr Grobbelaar had breached

Mr Fashanu, who sold his penthouse to fund his case. said he will appeal against the costs ruling, which could leave him with a personal bill of around £650,000. Mr Segers, who like Mr Grobbelaar received legal aid part-way through the case as funds ran out, will lose £65,000, and his co-defendant at least £30,000. A defence source said later: "Financially this can be described as a Pyrrhic victory.'

Mr Grobbelaar after the jury. which deliberated for 30 hours in total, said it was unable to reach a verdict on the final charge. At the inconclusive first trial the jury deliberated for 11 hours after a 34-day hearing. The goalkeeper denied accepting £2,000 from his former business partner, Christopher Vincent, to throw matches, in a

sting set up by The Sun. Mr Grobbelaar told a press conference: "The verdicts of today and yesterday are a victory for football. Right from the peginning there has never been a game thrown, either in the future or in the past ... It has been sheer hell for my family. As a man who has seen a lot in life, for me to go through this has been sheer hell." fused to comment on his legal bill or whether he might continue a libel action against The Sun, which in November 1994 broke the story of the alleged football scandal of the century. The paper indicated that it

would fight any action. Later the Crown Prosecution Service, which confirmed it would not be seeking a second of the case. "The seriousness of the offences left no doubt that the public interest required a prosecution."

Hampshire police also defended their investigation. Assistant chief constable Peter Linden Jones said they had to investigate "very serious" allegations in The Sun, though the public could now be reassured by the verdict that there was nothing "untoward" in foot-Costly case, page 3

there was a marked number Royal Yacht, the MI6 inquiry into ference they should decide series of Commons questions Commentary, page 15 100 days... and the going gets harder

As I entered Milibank Tower yesterday, it occurred to me how proud my father would have been to be there.

He was a lifelong socialist, and even the last time I saw him he was championing the cause, lamenting how employers had curtailed his career. Sadly, Dad is no longer with us. He spends two months each summer at his house in the south of France. Labour's first 100-day cele-

by, that there may be other opportunities. If the party makes this report a consistent event, and manage to stay in power for as long as the Conservatives, there will be about another 65 self-aggrandising festivals.

Yesterday's launch was notable for the characters absent rather than those on hand. Tony is in Tuscany, but it seems Robin Cook, Lord Simon and called "Election" won the Der-

From Our Wrong Correspondent...

Richard Edmondson, Racing Correspondent, in the first of a series in which specialist reporters venture outside their normal field, watched Labour's 100 days press conference

Andrew Slaughter, the beaten Uxbridge candidate, have been sent to Coventry. Labour's brations therefore passed him march to a century seemed to be going well until, like a nervous batsman, they got the jitters in the 90s. Robin's absence was a per-

sonal blow. My racing colleague does the selections for the Glasgow Herald, and there has been much discussion of the consistency of his tipping this week. Exactly 190 years ago, a horse by, and there have been interesting Blue Riband winners since. Tony Blair will know that "Quest For Fame" was successful in 1990, while Peter Mandelson's favourite is doubtless "Dr Devious" two years

There was promise of a further racing connection yesterday with the appearance of the former steward, John Prescott. He, though, was not affiliated to the Jockey Club; rather to the

The Deputy Prime Minister's in his lapel pocket and the arrival was prefaced by sombre long, pointed tail tucked into his classical music - the party has gone from D.Ream to D.Reary and a film montage of public supporters, including that great voluble political animal, the London cabbie.

After this Pearl and Dean episode came the Torvill and Dean partnership of the tall chap (Mandelson) and his dumpy confederate (Prescott). On a stage as clean and flimsy as an Ikea showroom, John was straight into his press release, faltering only when he inexplicably put the recent showers down to his "Riverdance". Mandelson didn't falter, nor would be if you lit matches under his feet. No wonder England are struggling when their best spinner is

In spite of the trident hidden

trousers, Mandelson's charcoal suit seemed to be hanging rather well. The minister without portfolio dislikes the media's attempt to demonise him as the arch manipulator, yet somehow he had attracted more than 10 camera crews to observe the simple act of him reading a great

trumpeting of the party. Questions were taken and questioners were humiliated, and by the end, the Fourth Estate was so concussed there was not even mention of the previous day's fourth interest rate rise since Labour took office.

Our speakers left in a red ministerial Jaguar with Prescott on the passenger side and Mandelson in the back. Who knows which of them has been in the driving seat while Tony Blair was

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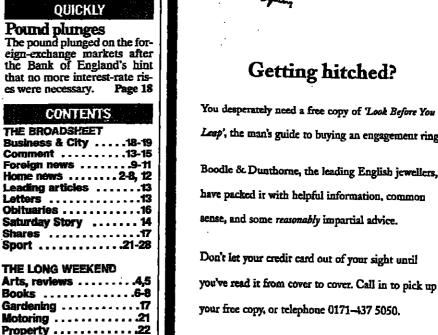
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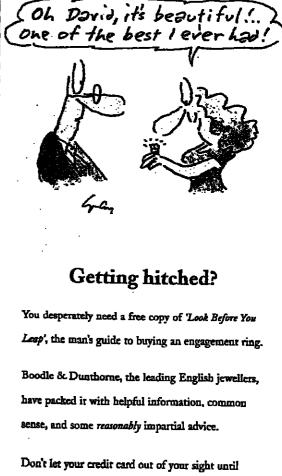
The pound plunged on the for-eign-exchange markets after the Bank of England's hint that no more interest-rate rises were necessary. Page 18

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BOODLE & DUNTHORNE

A mother's 395-day wait for Godot spotted "Max", his brows fur- can't have it." To prove he was said. But the mother did not let

Bonn .

Somewhere in Hanover there is a very happy little boy. For 395 days of his short life he lacked a name but now, thanks to his mother's persistence, the long He had heard about Geronimo, Geronimo Godot.

"Godot?", asked the town registrar all those 395 days ago. written down somewhere. "I've Flicking nervously through his got it," he exclaimed. "Godot is list of approved German names, in no way a forename. It's a fan- also wanted to prevent the child the civil servant smiled as he tasy name from literature. You being subjected to ridicule, he

twitch nervously when the baby's mother started to spell out G-O-D-O-T

The registrar was well-read. wait is over. A toast to Max though he was pretty sure it was not a German name. Worse, he had seen the name "Godot"

rowed as he searched among the not a heartless pen-pusher he the matter rest and petitioned Gs for Geronimo, and began to nodded "Geronimo" through. the regional court. The learned Normally, such verdicts are fi-

nal. The laws of German nomenclature are strict to the point of defining how many words a name can consist of, and even what a married woman is allowed to call herself. The system is designed to keep silly names like Elvis out of the telephone book. The registrar

judges have spent more than a year considering the matter, and ssued their verdict yesterday. "Fantasy names are allowed if a child has several forenames, so that he can choose later in life what he wants to be called."

The implication is that if Max etcetera opts for Godot, he might be in trouble with the law again. But that's 17 years away



Bomb drops into woman's lap in Belfast café

An incendiary bomb dropped unto a woman's lap as she took her seat in a south Belfast coffee shop yesterday. The small device, wrapped in tissue paper, was hidden underneath a table at the shop in the Finaghy district. It dropped to the floor when the customer got to her feet. Staff alerted the police, who evacuated the immediate area before Army explosives experts were called in.

Police later confirmed the device was an incendiary.

Scan Corrigan, a Catholic, who owns My Granny's Pantry coffee shop, said he was stunned by the attack. "The woman was very calm until she realised it was a bomb, She couldn't believe it," he said. "I've no idea why the shop was targeted."

Lake rescue attempt on girl, 7

The body of a seven-year-old girl was dragged from a lake vesterday after a car plunged into the water at Womersley, near Selby, North Yorkshire. The girl had been under the water for at least 20 minutes and attempts were being made by doctors to revive her, police said. Police said it was not known how many people were in the car and divers were searching the lake.

Green-belt factory gets go-ahead

Ministers have over-ruled one of their own planning inspectors to allow a micro-electronics plant to be built on green-belt land outside Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham. Green-belt land is meant to be protected from construction to stop cities sprawling. but planning minister Richard Caborn said there were "very special circumstances" - the urgent need to diversify the West Midland's economy and the lack of an alternative site for the plant. The planning application for the 140-acre site at Minworth was made by the Government's West Midlands Development Agency, but it is thought that Dutch multinational Phillips is interested in occupying
the factory.

Nicholas Schoon

Alien sex fiend is new Modesty Blaise



The role of comic strip heroine Modesty Blaise, reportedly turned down by Uma Thurman because it involved nudity, has gone to the virtually unknown actress Natasha Henstridge (left). Ms Henstridge is best known for playing an alien sex fiend in the science fiction film Species.

Modesty Blaise, the sexy adventuress from the novels by Peter O'Donnell and the longrunning syndicated comic strip that appears in the London Evening Standard, was brought to the screen in 1966 by Monica

Vitti and co-starred Terence Stamp. The new version will be directed by Frenchman Luc Besson, responsible for this year's box office blockbuster The Fifth Element.

Children's home worker suspended

A care worker has been suspended as part of an inquiry into allegations of physical and sexual abuse at children's homes dating back more than 30 years, it emerged yesterday. Kirklees Social Services in West Yorkshire has received four complaints, some referring to the Sixties, from people who say they were mistreated while in care in Dewsbury. West Yorkshire police are working with social services and the NSPCC on the inquiry.

Neo-Nazi concert in South Wales

Police are to mount a major operation today to prevent any trouble rouce are to mount a major operation today to prevent any trouble from a planned neo-Nazi rock concert. But senior officers yesterday were still trying to locate the South Wales venue of the so-called "Aryan Fest" advertised in leaflets circulating among ultra-right extremist groups in Europe. Special protection is being given to the Asian festival at Cardiff International Arena to celebrate the 50th anniversary of independence for India and Pakistan.

Windsor castle oil well abandoned

A Canadian oil exploration company has abandoned its plans to drill an exploration borehole beneath the Queen's Windsor Castle after its government licence to do so expired.

Birmingham lands Eurovision

Birmingham's National Indoor Arena was announced as the venue for next May's Eurovision song contest, beating venues in London, Manchester, Cardiff and Glasgow to stage the event.

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Ken Rutherford talks to the Princess on her arrival in Sarajevo yesterday (Photograph: Reuters)

Victim's praise for Diana's message on landmines

iana, Princess of Wales, arrived in Bosnia yes- foot when a landmine exploded on a hiking holiday terday, and earned the praise of a landmine victim, who said people around the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world the world would not be distracted from her visit's message by world not be distracted from her visit's message by world not be distracted from her visit's message by world not be distracted from her visit's message by world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit's message where the world not be distracted from her visit where the world not be distracted from her visit where the world not be distr

eadlines about her new "romance". The princess flew into Sarajevo for the start of a threeday visit to develop her campaign against landmines by meeting maimed victims, who regard themselves as "forgotten". She smiled and was clearly relaxed as she alighted from the unmarked white jet in which she flew from London.

She was welcomed by a small group of officials and charity workers, before boarding a car carrying the markings of Norwegian People's Aid. Ken Rutherford, co-founder of the Landmine Survivors' Network, which arranged the trip, was on the tarmac to welcome her. He had lost both his legs in a landmine explosion in Somalia.

"I have lost both my legs and I have testified to the US Senate and spoken to a lot of politicians" said Mr Butherford. "I have met the Princess and she is a real person. She cares about this issue in her heart.

"You don't come to Bosnia for a vacation. I think most people around the world will see her just as I do. She American-born Mr Rutherford was an aid worker in

of his left needed amoutating. He tounded Landmine Survivors' Network in September 1995 with Jerry White, also 33, who lost his

Somalia in 1993 when he lost his right leg, and part

"It's incredible that she has come to Bosnia. She is the most renowned face in the world and for her to support what we are doing is incredible.

He believed she had been particularly attracted to the fact that the network was particularly concerned about landmine survivors long after they were injured. The security surrounding the visit was so tight that some of the families the Princess was to meet were

unaware that she was coming, he said. Others had been told only in the last few days. Security considerations meant there were few further details of the Princess's itinerary, but she was due to meet groups of mainly ilitary victims of landmines during an evening at an hotel in Tuzla last night.

International discussion about the need to ban landmines had tended to ignore the problems faced by the victims, said Mr Rutherford. "These people become forgotten, shut off in their own home

Diana had just returned from a Mediterranean holiday with the millionaire playboy Dodi Fayed, 41, son and heir of Harrods owner, Mohamed al-Fayed.

According to reports, the Princess was seen arriving at his apartment on Thursday night, apparently to have dinner with him, only hours before her departure for Bosnia.

BROADCASTING

Radio 1 listeners fall below 10m for the first time

Radio 1's forthcoming 30th anniversary celebrations had some of the fizz removed yesterday, when it emerged that its listenership has plunged below the 10 million mark for the first time.

The latest statistics from ratings researcher Rajar show that the BBC's pop and prattle service for young people is down to 9.67 million listeners – just over half the audience it drew when it was launched in 1967. The loss of 1.3 million listeners year-on-year is largely due to Chris Evans' abrupt departure from its breakfast show in January

show in January.

Evans' fans have been retuning in recent months to Virgin Radio or vibrant local music stations such as Capital and Heart FM in London. In overall national terms, commercial radio is enjoying London. unprecedented popularity, now accounting for 50.2 per cent of all listening. Radio 3's andience of 2.3 million is just half that of its

commercial rival, Classic FM.

The latest Rajar results would have been even bleaker for the Beeb if Radio 2 and Radio 4 hadn't boosted their popularity. Critical attention will be focused on the latter to see whether it gains or loses listeners as a result of major scheduling changes it has just announced. But the impact of the controversial reforms won't register with Rajar for some time.

HEALTH

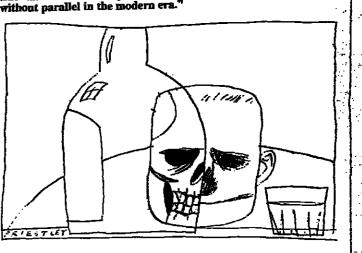
Alcoholism cuts lives short in Russia

Russians appear to be drinking themselves to death at a rate unmatched anywhere else in modern times, researchers say. The average life expectancy for Russian men fell by 6.2 years and for average life expectancy for Russian men fell by 6.2 years and for women by 3.4 years between 1990 and 1994, and a major reason for that were a high consequent in a paper in that was a high consumption of alcohol, according to a report in

"The available evidence suggests ... that the very high alcohol "The available evidence suggests ... that the very high alcohol consumption, together with the habit of binge-drinking, may be resulting in a very large number of circulatory deaths in middle

resulting in a very large number of checked of the resulting in a very large number of checked of the report.

The team led by David Leon of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine worked with staff from the Center of Demography and Human Ecology in Moscow. The report was based on an overall analysis of statistics between 1984 and 1994. It said average life expectancy at birth for Russian men fell from 63.8 years in 1990 to 57.6 years in 1994 and for woman from 74.4 years to 71 years. "The magnitude and steepness of the fluctuations in mortality rates and life expectancy for Russia are without parallel in the modern era."



RESEARCH

Protein link to brain diseases

British and German researchers have reported significant progress in understanding how brain cells die in people suffering from Huntington's chorea, as well as two other degenerative brain

The findings of the researchers, published in the journal Cell, indicate that Huntington's chorea is caused by a build-up of proteins inside the cell, which eventually kills it. A similar process may be at work in two other crippling brain disorders, Alzheimer's disease and Creutzfeld-Jakob disease.

Priority will now be given to screening for drugs that inhibit the protein buildup. "We all know what we think the primary event [cause] is, so we can start working on a cure, perhaps by stopping these aggregations from forming," said Dr Gillian Bates, of Guy's Hospital in London.

Huntington's chorea is an hereditary degenerative disease that causes premature death of nerve cells in the brain, triggering mental and physical deterioration. It is characterised by involuntary movements of the body and dementia.

TELECOMS

Dialling a number you won't forget

Business telephone numbers could be easier to remember, under plans announced yesterday by telecommunications watchdog, Oftel. Under the proposals, companies and public organisations can choose to change their current numbers to one prefixed with "05", regardless of where they are in the country. The number will be followed by three digits which identify the company and six more to get the individual line.

The 05 scheme will be voluntary and numbers will be available

for distribution from 1998. Oftel hopes it will be up and running by 1999. The plans have been initiated in order to reduce the pressure on 01 numbers and lessen the need for fature code

Don Cruickshank, Director General of Telecommunications, at Oftel, said: "These plans are in response to clear customer demand. The scheme is primarily intended for organisations who operate extensive multi-site networks of their own, although smaller companies will also be able to use it.

NATURE

Birds feel heat of global warming

Many British birds now lay their eggs nine days earlier each spring than they did a quarter century ago, say researchers, and they suggest man-made global warming is behind the change. The British Trust for Ornithology analysed nest-laying records for 65 native species from 1971 to last year, kept by hundreds of dedicated amateur ornithologists.

It found that for 20 of those species, the average date when the

first egg was laid became significantly earlier over the 25 years, and for only one species, the stock dove, did that date become significantly later.

For the remainder of the birds, no strong trend in egg-laying dates emerged - although there was a weak, overall tendency towards earlier clutches. Warmth earlier in the year makes plants and insects grow more rapidly, which provides more food for baby birds – thus there is competitive advantage in earlier egg-laying.

The research is published in this week's issue of the science journal Nature.

Nicholas Schoon

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Heart surgeons fix it for Sir Jimmy Savile

Sir Jimmy Savile was moved out of intensive careyesterday morning, after a quadruple heart by-pass operation.He was said to be in good spirits, chatting to doctors and nurses as wellwishers rang the hospital switchboard.

The 71-year-old veteran broadcaster and charity fundraiser, who was admitted to Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds, West Yorkshire, underwent a three-hour quadruple bypass operation on Thursday.

His secretary, Janet Cope, said: "He's talking to the surgeons and nurses, smil-ing and responding well to the operation." Sir Jimmy learned he needed the heart operation four years ago but continually put it off, Mrs Cope said. "He kept going to check-ups and putting it off until a few weeks ago, when his sister Chrissie, who was 76, died from a heart attack.

"I think that made him realise it was time for him to go in to for the operation." Sir Jimmy was expected to remain in hospital for two weeks and must then take it easy for three or four months.



His trademark cigars were not the reason for the operation, according to the doctors, said Mrs Cope. "They say it is nothing to do with it. He has a huge cigar burning all the time but he never inhales, its just a showbiz thing," she explained. It is estimated he has helped raise a total of more than £30 million for charity, including £12 million to rebuild the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, where he

partly lives and works Lecturer sacked for saying child sex harmless

Chris Brand, the Edinburgh University lecturer who claimed child sex was harmless in certain circumstances, was sacked yesterday after a tribunal found him guilty of gross misconduct.

The psychology don's claims on the Inemet that paedophilia was acceptable, as tong as the child was over 12 and of above average intelligence, were condemned as 'disgraceful" by Professor Sir Stewart

Sutherland, principal of the university. Mr Brand, 52, was suspended from his teaching and administrative duties last November following complaints about his conduct. A university disciplinary tribunal,

submitted its report to the principal The university faced down calls for Mr Brand's resignation earlier last year after he wrote a book claiming whites were more intelligent than blacks.

The more recent case was extraordinary, the tribunal found, because he had "courted further publicity and shown a desire to pursue his own goals at the expense of others." The effect of his remarks was "to undermine completely any of the remaining trust and confidence which members of the Department might have had in Mr Brand as a colleague.

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DIPLOPIN

first time

A heroin dealer whose five-yearold stepson was killed in a drug-feud shooting has told detectives that he believes the boy was deliberately targeted.

Before returning to his home under heavy police guard yesterday. John Bates, the stepfather of Dillon Hull, revealed that his assailant has waited until the child victim was by his side before opening

Dillon was shot through the head and Mr Bates suffered a minor stomach wound in the attack last Wednesday.

Angry residents in Deane, Bolton, Greater Manchester, launched a petition yesterday to have Mr Bates, 28, and Dillon's mother, Jane Hull, 29, moved from their home in Jauncey Street as it emerged that both had appeared in court last year on heroin dealing-related

Then, Mr Bates was jailed for

Arthur Noble, sitting at Burnley Crown Court, put Ms Hull on probation with the warning: "I hope that you will bring your son up properly and make sure he doesn't have any such involvement [with drugs]."

However, his warning went unheeded. Ms Hull gave birth to another boy, Codie, three weeks ago which, according to her father, Robert Hull, was

born a heroin addict.
"He was born addicted to drugs," Mr Hull told the Manchester Evening News, "That's why he's still in hospital. Jane is a registered heroin addict." Bolton Social Services said

there had been no care orders relating to either Dillon or Codic, but a spokesman said the family was "known" to social workers. Detective Superintendent

Peter Ellis, the man leading the murder inquiry, said Mr Bates had been able to give him a full account of the attack before dis-

and returning home in the earhours of yesterday.

Mr Ellis said the assailant had waited in a yellow Metro while Mr Bates was alone in the street looking for Dillon. Once he found the boy, the gunman launched his attack.

man had every opportunity to

"The man in the yellow Metro has chosen to carry out that attack when John Bates was with Dillon'

charging himself from hospital attack him at that time but, for reasons best known to that in-dividual, he did not take that opportunity," said Mr Ellis.

"The man in the yellow Metro has chosen to carry out that attack ... when John Bates was with Dillon. To me, that demonstrates the callous nature "Mr Bates believes that the of the man I am looking for." Greater Manchester Police yes-

The decision to allow Mr Bates to return home was taken after long consultations with police but it provoked an angry response from neighbours.
We had to respect their wishes to return to their home

"There is a increased uniformed presence and we have taken other measures to guarantee the safety of the bereaved family and people of

However, many residents said Mr Bates's return spelled

danger for their children.
"I am absolutely furious that they should let him back here" said Bert Plimley, 58. "I feel very sorry for what has happened but there are repercussions for other people. I have 14 grandchildren, but there's no way I can let them visit while he's here."

Details of Ms Hull's court

terday offered a £10,000 reward for information leading to the killer's conviction.

case, published in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph, showed that she only avoided a jail sentence for allowing her

home to be used for drug dealing because she had Dillon.

Mr Bates told the court that she had "turned a blind eye" to his dealing so he could fund his own heroin addiction.

The court was told that Ms and their community" said Mr Hull had tried to remove Mr Bates from her home because of his drug abuse but she al-lowed him back because she was "fond" of him.

Judge Noble said he would spare her from jail for the sake of Dillon and so put her on probation for two years instead. He said Ms Hull appeared to have been "dominated" by Mr Bates and advised her not to allow him back into her home until he had weaned himself off

heroin. However, instead of weaning Mr Bates off heroin, it appears that she became hooked on the

Philistines: That's what Sir Colin Davis thinks about the Cabinet

Tonight's Promenade concert at year to run and receives only the Royal Albert Hall is unique. £25,000 from the Arts Council It will undoubtedly be the only time during the whole promenade season that the orchestra is in tears at the end of the con-

The teenagers of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain will be releasing pentup emotion at the climax of their year as they perform Sibelius, Vaughan Williams and Tippett.

But their conductor tonight, the illustrious Sir Colin Davis, has tears of genuine rage over the fact that Britain's premier youth orchestra is in perpetual financial instability.

In an interview with The Independent, Sir Colin denounced the Government as "philistine" for refusing to invest in youthful talent. It is the first time this term of cultural abuse has been aimed at the new Labour administration. Coming from one of the world's most renowned conductors it is likely to sting both the Prime Minister and his Culture Secretary Chris Smith.

The NYO, founded in 1948. has produced numerous fa-

mous musicians and conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle and Mark Elder. It costs £550,000 a and £800 from the Department of Education. The Arts Council cannot give more as it does not give major revenue funding grants to amateur organisa-

Michael de Grey, chief executive of the orchestra, said: "Our future is insecure. We are dependent on private sponsorship and it only needs one sponsor to pull out and we're under threat. It's been a battle to raise sponsorship every year.

"Yet being in this orchestra changes people's lives, even if they don't become musicians," he says. "It provides them with discipline, teamwork, friendship and the pursuit of excel-

The NYO has a lottery application for £500,000 with the Arts Council, but even if they receive this sum, it could not go towards their core funding which takes 150 talented youngsters on three residential tuition courses a year, culminating in the Proms.

Sir Colin Davis is now pub-



licly advocating that what is really needed is a rethink of how public money is channelled to

At present it goes to the arts institutions which reach the biggest audiences or provide ground-breaking radical new work. But there should be a third strand for funding. Namely, highly talented, amateur outfits which bring young peo-ple into creating and perform-

Sir Colin, who has just led the NYO in three days of lengthy

rehearsals, for tonight's Prom. forfeiting his own fee, said: "It's disgraceful that the NYO hardly gets any public money. The government advocates improving the quality of life. But I fear the worst. I fear it's government by philistines for the rest of my life. After the War, when I was a boy, there were all kinds of intellectuals in the

ple. We need a bit more of that "All the NYO needs is £50,000 a year. Think what it

government - cultivated peo-

does for these kids. They are welcome everywhere they go. Mr Blair cannot talk about Education, education, and education' while grants for the arts concentrate on the big institutions and leave this young peo-ple's orchestra searching for

money. He added: "Without sounding pretentious, those of us who are older ought to work with the young - give them a taste of what it costs to play this kind of music, the emotional cost, the mental cost, the tech-

nical cost."

Sir Colin, former music director at the Royal Opera House, said: "We [top conductors) get paid a lot, probably too much. You've got to plough something back."

Clare Duckworth, 17, from Bolton, leader of the orchestra, said: "Tonight is the peak for the NYO. It's very sad as well. We've been together for an intense time and got to know each other so well. We all tend to cry a lot at the end of the Prom, or actually in it."

Business deal that cost Grobbelaar dear

Michael Streeter

For the rest of his life Bruce Grobbelgar, the Clown Prince of football, will regret the day in July 1992 when he walked into a Chester wine bar to meet businessman Christopher

It was their business deal and resulting friendship which was to lead to the allegations of match-fixing against Grobbelaar and spark off nearly three years of investigation culminating in

Although cleared yesterday, the case has been, financially at least, a Pyrrhic victory. He faces legal bills of tens of thousands of pounds, the case has coincided with the final stages of his soccer career - he left Plymouth Argyle at the end of last

season - and put tremendous pressure on both his personal and business life. Grobbelaar, an ebullient per-

sonality who achieved superhero status on Merseyside in a Liverpool side full of heroes, had gone into business with fel-low Zimbabwean Vincent. Knowing his playing days were numbered, he aimed to set up his future financial security. Even after court victory, that dream seems shattered.

The goalkeeper was to lose £70,000 when their safari company Mondoro collapsed in 1994, but the personal fall-out was even more spectacular. Feeling hurt, and seeking money and "revenge", Mr Vincent went to the Sun newspaper with a remarkable story: that the Liverpool and Southampton

'Grobbelaar received treachery and lies in return for giving Vincent his time, money and friendship'

goalkeeper, one of the biggest names in English soccer, had been trying to fix the result of Premier League games for a Far East gambling syndicate. The newspaper used Mr Vin-

cent to set up a "sting", in a se-ries of interviews with his old friend in October 1994 which were secretly videotaped. It was these tapes which formed the charge that Grobbelaar took £2,000 from Mr Vincent as a bribe to influence football games for another - invented syndicate, and on which he was formally cleared yesterday.

The footballer claimed later that he had been stringing Mr Vincent along, suspecting that

his former friend may be trying to set him up. The re-trial jury also spotted

that a crucial line from the video tape had been missed by both prosecution and defence and did not appear in the transcript; that when Grobbelaar picked up the £2,000 offered by the non-existent syndicate it was only after Mr Vincent, referring to the cash, said to him. "I don't have a jacket, you car-

The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the charge against Grobbelaar and the judge en-tered a verdict of not guilty. Mr Vincent, the key prose-cution witness, was attacked by

the defence. Rodney Klevan QC, Grobbe-

laar's counsel, said the player had given Mr Vincent his time, his money and his friendship. "In return he has received treachery and, more importantly, he has received lies," he

The defence highlighted Grobbelaar's reputation, from boy soldier with the Rhodesian army to the man who comforted the families of victims after the Hillsborough tragedy.

His remarkable, and sometimes lighthearted approach to made. It ran: "We stand by our football, came from his expe-man".

riences on national service. "Losing a game is not a tragedy after experiencing border raids and having to eat beetles because you are out of rations."

A string of impressive expert witnesses, including 1966 World Cup heroes Gordon Banks, former Arsenal goalkeeper and television pundit goalkeeper Bob Wilson, and the goalkeeper's manager at Southampton Alan Ball, testified to Grobbe-

laar's performances.

Grobbelaar yesterday movingly thanked the fans who had stood by him.

Their attitude was summed up by a front page headline in Liverpool newspaper when the allegations were first

IN TOMORROW'S FIVE-SECTION INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



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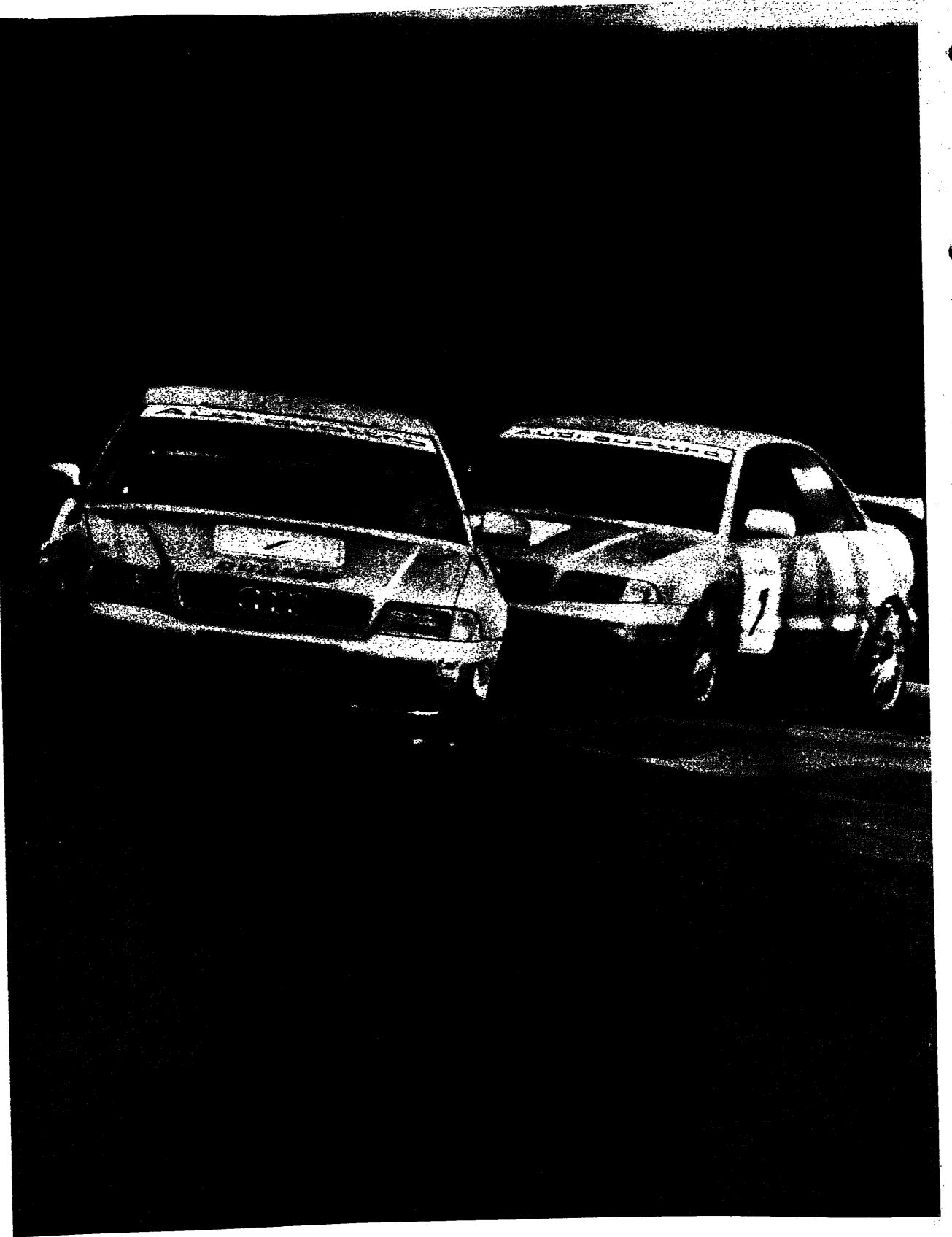


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Déjà vu.

On the tight, twisting Knockhill circuit last weekend, it was business as usual for Audi, the reigning British Touring Car Champions. The two Audi A4 quattros finished first and second in both races, as well as the qualifying rounds. All this despite a 65kg weight penalty. Haven't we been here before?

Vorsprung durch Technik

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Translation: Cornish is now an official language

Lucy Ward and Louise Jury

The Cornish language, widely thought to survive only in the dusty books of scholars, has been given a new lease of life after qualifications in the subject gained government recognition.

Examinations run by the Cornish Language Board and ac-credited by Cornwall's local education authority have been officially approved on the advice of the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which oversees qualifications.

The decision will prompt celebrations among Cornish nationalists campaigning for greater recognition of Cornish identity, prompted by a resurgence in Celtic language and music together with a sense of injustice at poor investment in the county by the English across the Tamar,

But the step has exposed old rifts between scholars and speakers over which version of the language is most authentic. Polite but pointed accusations are flying between those who believe late or modern Cornish, dating from 1504, is the purest form, and exponents of a different version based on medieval texts.

The medievalists insist that their language reflects the vocabulary and grammar of Cor-nish in its 15th-century golden age, while purists mutter dark allegations of the use of computers by their rivals to standardise spellings and forms.

The Cornish Language Board examinations fall into the medieval camp. The secretary of the board, Welia Brown, said: "Cornish died at the end of the 18th century, so you have to decide whether to revive the corpse of a man in his prime or of somebody in the latter stages of life. The bulk of the revivalists decide the best option is to take the language at its peak in the golden age of the 1400s and revive that."

The 300 or more people studying this version of Cornish in classes around the county each year will speak a "tidied up" language surprisingly similar to their forebears five centuries earlier, Mr Brown contends.

The purists, represented by the Cornish Language Council, have no truck with standardised forms. They stress the three distinct periods of early, medieval and late or "modern" Cornish. Evidence exists of a fisherman speaking the language as late as the 1890s, the council says, and argues that sufficient record remains of the spelling, vocabulary and sound of modern Cornish to recon-

struct it with great accuracy.
Richard Gendall, honorary research fellow at the Institute of Cornish Studies and a member of the council, insisted its version represented true historical Cornish. The language board, he claimed, was beginning to lose ground. "They have lost credibility with the universities, it is only a matter of time before they are rumbled." As the two camps, and some

five other bodies claiming to represent true Cornish, continue their scholarly squabbles, the fact remains that committed Cornish speakers remain relatively rare. Last year, fewer than 60 candidates sat the board exams, and 13 were from outside Cornwall, including the Czech Republic, Wales, Ger-

many and the United States. Jan Gendall, folklorist and member of the language council, admits: "The numbers of people who could sit down and chat in Cornish on any subject from space travel to knights in shining armour are very few. The number who would shout for help in Cornish if they were drowning are even fewer."



Spelt out: Richard Gendall at home yesterday with his new CornIsh dictionary. It took him 15 years to research

exicon brings ancient words back to life

A retired teacher has produced the first dictionary to present historically pure

Richard Gendall's Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish has dealt a blow to the notion that the Cornish language has been dead for centuries. Previous Cornish dictionaries have always incorporated

Breton and Welsh. In 15 years of research Mr Gendall has gathered 10,000 entries, starting from 1504, the date of the last great medieval Cornish epic. He believes they show that late or modern Cornish was the

richest period of the language. Technological words were being added as recently as Victorian times, coping with the introduction of steam engines to the

expansion of tin mining. Dr Philip Payton, director of the Institute of Cornish Studies in Truro, said he thought Mr Gendall's dictionary was an "extremely

important piece of work".
"Most of the work that has been done by Cornish scholars has focused on the medieval period. But this shows us that Cornish was a diverse and vibrant language in the late period." What is more, Cornish still A beginner's guide

Melten da. Good morning. Fatel era why a keel? How are you? (Literally, How are you

Benatewgana. Goodbye. Durdaladawhy. Thank you. (Literally God repay you.) it's bram an gathe. That's nonsense. (Literally, That's the fart of the cat.)

has some life left in it yet. Mr Gendall said that many words are still in everyday usc. Among previously unrecorded words is goleity

which he discovered last year

Molatuendalaas.

general curse, literally, God's curse in your stomach. Comish versions of names

Tamsin, Cornish for Thomasina. Jennifer, Cornish for Guinivere. Catterne, Cornish for Kate. Lowena, increasingly popular Comish version of Jov.

in Sennen. It means lighthouse.

People living in Cornwall who still use local dialect terms "are the last Cornish speakers", he said yesterday.

"Anyone who uses a dialect word is using live Cornish.' Mr Gendall, 73, from Liskeard, is an honorary research fellow at the Institute of Cornish Studies, which is part of Exeter

University. He began learning the language at the age of four, because his parents had a calendar of Cornish phrases behind the bathroom door. With the resurgence of

interest in Cornish nationalism, the language is also provoking much interest. "Cornish people are losing houses, losing dialect, losing jobs," he said. "But there is nothing like the knowledge

you belong together." About 42 per cent of people living in Cornwall nowadays can claim Comish ancestry, he said. In some areas, such as Redruth, where the closure of Cornwall's last tin mine was announced this week, the figure is more than 60 per cent. But in other places there are almost no real" Cornish people left. Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish. Available

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Vean, Menheniot, Liskeard,

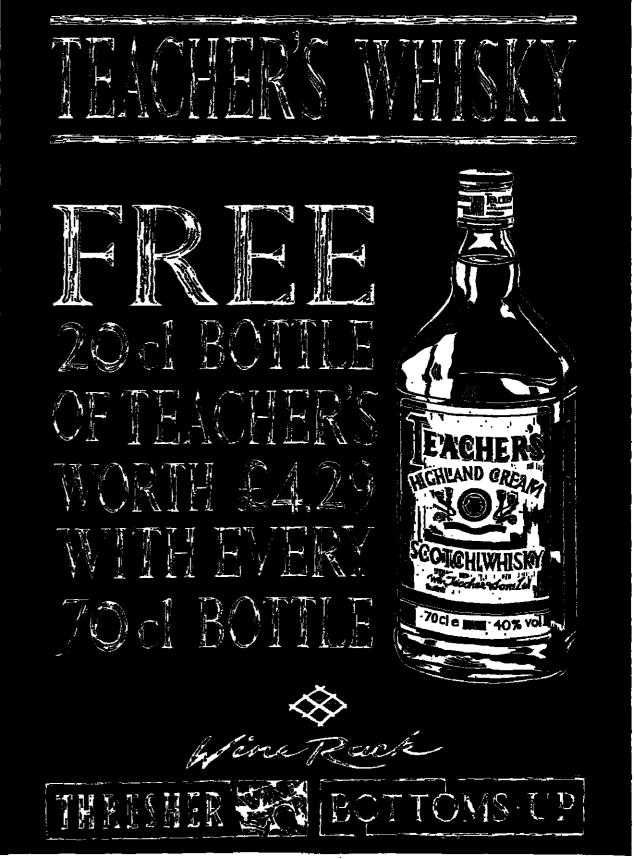
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ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

likely to fetch up to £500 each. In moving from the anima-

The Simpsons are part of a growing realisation among galleries of the desirability among collectors for original examples of screen animation. The most common reasons have been nostalgia and interest in cinema and television history, which is why early Disney drawings still

But latterly much more recent animation is appearing in galleries and at auction houses. The Simpsons is only six years old. And the successes animation from Cosgrove Hall studios are also attracting attention.

Russell Singler of the Animation Art Gallery says: "Ani-



ictures: Russell Singler of the Animation Art Gallery with a cel from Disney's 1937 film Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

mation art is highly collectible. We specialise in Disaey, Warner Brothers and Hanna Barbera, but many of the smaller studios have also produced collectible animation.

"The range goes from £20 to several thousand pounds. The most expensive item we have is

a six-dwarf set up from the original 1937 drawings for Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. That is priced at £5,600."

صكذا من الاحل

Alongside Disney in Mr Singler's gallery are Batman and Spiderman animation art. The Flintstones from the Eighties (£400), as opposed to the original Flintstone drawings from the Sixties which are very rare and would fetch £1,800.

Key characters from our childhoods inspire higher prices. An original storyboard drawing of Cruella De Vil from Disney's 101 Dalmations is valued at £2,500. And at

auction in the United States the biggest ranties, drawings from early black-and-white 1930s short films starring Mickey Mouse, have commanded a \$1m price.

Mr Singler said: "Everyone has their favourite cartoon character and we can find them

value but today it's quite an original from that series." different. This is North Amer-Finding the original cels – a single scene which will make up ican heritage." only a fraction of a second of the

version seen on film - can be dif-

ficult. "Most of the older ani-

mation cels were just thrown

away," says Mr Singler. "They

were never seen as anything of

The Simpsons is art, adds Mr Singler, because art is something you buy because you enjoy looking at it. It means something to you, inspires emotions and you enjoy it".

Lawrence inquiry to be held in public

lason Bennetto

TABLE COH

The inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence will be held in public in a building close to where the black teenager was stabbed to death, it was an-

nounced yesterday.

An appeal will be made for people to come forward with evidence. The inquiry, as well as examining the circumstances surrounding the killing, will also have wide-ranging implications for how the police and courts deal with racially motivated

'An appeal will be made for people to provide evidence'

crime. Sir William Mac-pherson of Cluny, the judge heading the inquiry, said yesterday that he intended proceed-ings to be "as

open as possible".

He said public hearings would be held later this year and an appeal would be made for people to come forward. The judge, formerly a High Court judge of the Queen's Bench, was appointed by the Home Secre-tary Jack Straw to lead the inquiry last week. The announcement followed a meeting between Mr Straw and the

Lawrence family.

The inquiry will be given powers last used in Lord Scar-

man's 1981 inquiry into the events surrounding the stabbing of the 18-year-old student at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London, in 1993.

Sir William met his fellow inquiry members for the first time at the Home Office in London, yesterday. He shook the hand of Tom Cook, the former Deputy Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, the Rt Rev John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney, and Dr Richard Stone, chairman of the Jewish Coun-

cil for Racial Equality. Sir William said in a statement: "We will be holding public hearings later this year and we would like them to take place in Greenwich. A public appeal will be made for people to come forward with evidence. Following that appeal, decisions will be made about who will be called before the inquiry."

The Police Complaints Authority is currently investigating complaints made by the Lawrence family about the Metropolitan Police's handling of the
case. They are expected to complete their findings by October
Fuller details of their report will be published - this has only happened on four previous occa-sions – although witness statements will be kept secret.

Sir William's inquiry will only begin after the authority's report has been completed. The in-quiry has been given power to summon any person or obtain any documents. Refusal to tes-tify would be contempt of court and could lead to imprisonment.

Police move to stop Nazi rock concert

A major police operation is taking place to prevent hundreds of Nazi skinheads from all over Europe staging a rally and rock concert in South Wales today. After a raid on a house in

Cardiff on Thursday, police made four arrests and seized weapons and 30 boxes of literature. Billy Bartlett, 29, from

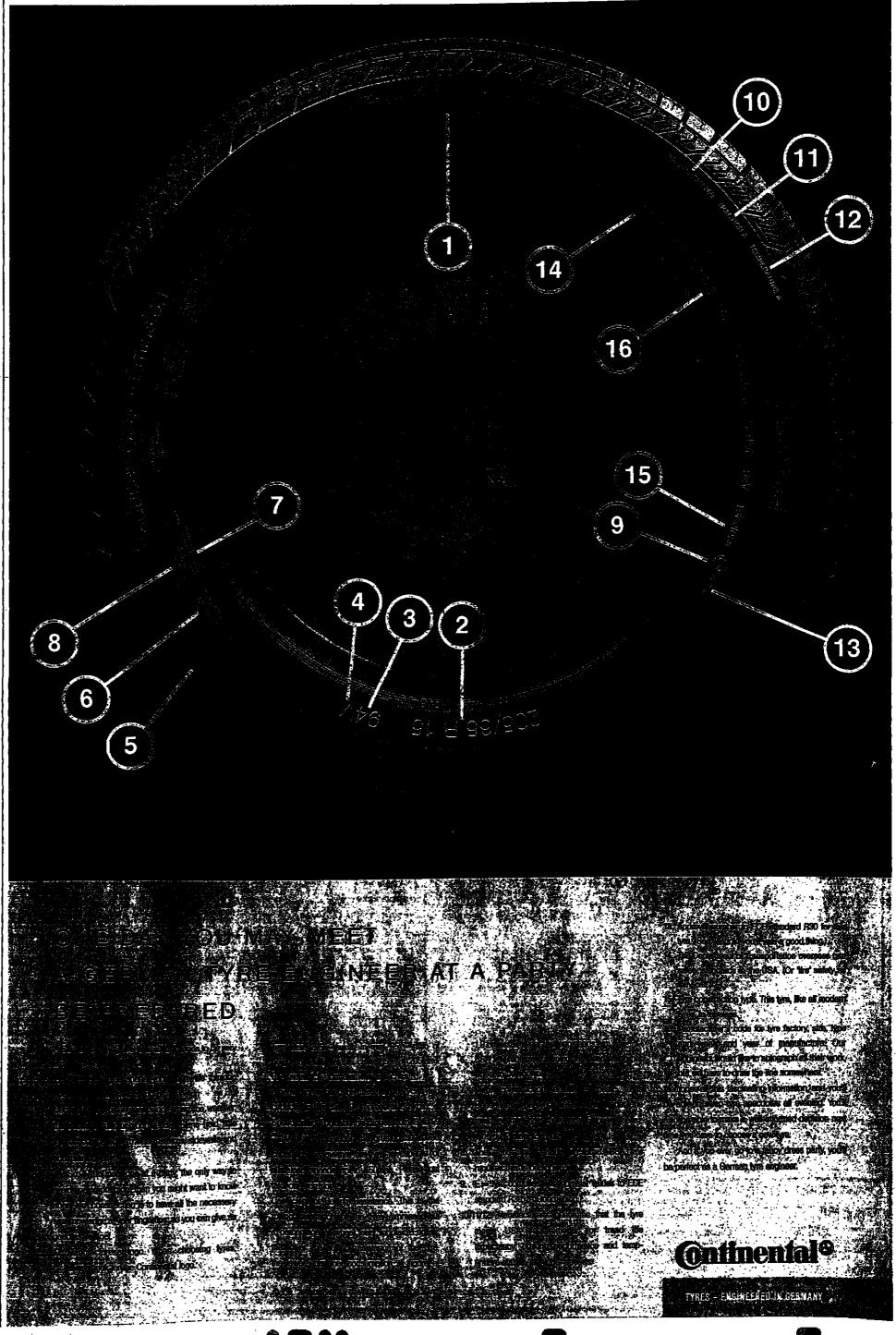
Cardiff, was charged with pub-Cardiff, was charged with public order offences and released on bail. His girlfriend and two other men, both Americans, were released without charge.

Blood and Honour, the Nazi skinhead group which is behind the event, is hoping to attract up to 1,000 supporters, with around 150 skinheads travelling from

150 skinheads travelling from France, Germany and Belgium. But the police initiative was today threatening to create a mas-sive loss-of-face for the organ-isers who are believed to have been searching for last minute alternative venues in the west of

Plans for the so-called "Aryan Music Fest" have alarmed politicians including, the South Wales MEP, Glenys Kinnock, and the Plaid Cymru president, Davydd Wigley MP, who have called for a ban. And the Anti-Nazi League has called on supporters to rally in Cardiff and Bridgend.

The British Nazi skins, who are highly regarded by their peers in other countries, face humiliation over the climbdown. Similar events are staged regularly in Germany, with 1,000 people attending and British skinhead bands invited to play as headline acts.



Drenched in Devon, but there's always a sunny side

tage of the hottest weekend the year so far while certain parts of the country were still mop-ping up from some of the worst storms in decades,

With temperatures in central and southern England set to reach 30C, the sudden good weather follows a week in which parts of Britain have suffered iorrential rain, flooding hundreds of properties and closing scores of roads.

South Wales and the Southwest were the most badly affected parts of the country. In east Devon, where three inches of rain fell in just 45 minutes on Thursday night. the worst flash floods for decades forced the evacuation of nearly a thousand holidaymakers from a campsite near

In the village of Ottery St Mary, the water reached three feet in places. The town's fire station was flooded, and firefighters' cars had to be rescued. Martin Weiler, of the Environment Agency, described the severe thunderstorm as very, very unusual".

By yesterday morning, however, the heavy rain was country.

Thousands were heading to the coast vesterday to take advan-operations could begin to clear

roads blocked by the deluge. The road-rescue organisations are advising motorists that most roads in the area are passable with care.

"The A30, the main route in and out of the West Country, has been reopened, but some minor roads remain under water." said an RAC spokes-

But the recent rain is still likely to add to problems on the roads as thousands of people head for beaches in Devon and Cornwall.

Meanwhile, the bookmakers William Hill have cut the odds on the temperature reaching 100F (37.8C) this year from

50-1 to 33-1. Graham Sharpe, Hill's spokesman, said: "On the hottest day of the year so far, we have taken a string of bets, and it could cost us a payout of up to £250,000 if 100F is reached for the first

The sunny weather is expected to break at the beginning of next week giving a gloomy outlook. Thundery showers will hit most parts of the



Wash out: A family carrying their belongings after heavy rain flooded their campsite at Ottery St Mary, Devon

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There's a Great Deal going on

Court comes to the aid of Saudi nurses

Two British nurses accused of murder in Saudi Arabia heard yesterday that their chances of avoiding the death penalty had increased after an Australian court ruling.

The brother of murdered Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford has called for her British former colleagues. Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, to be executed if they are convicted of the killing.

But there is intense dispute over whether Frank Gilford has the legal right to represent his family's wishes on the possible beheading of the accused.

Yesterday the South Australian State Supreme Court ordered him not to make further calls for the death penalty until his mother's mental state has been assessed.

Judge Len King said there were serious questions about the mental competency of Muriel Gilford, and ordered her son not to claim she backed the potential death penalty for her daughter's killers.

Under Saudi law, a call for the death penalty by a victim's family must be unanimous.

Michael Dark, representing Ms Parry, 41, and Ms McLauch-Jan, 31, welcomed the decision of the Adelaide court and said it is now up to the Saudi courts to decide what happens

"We were given until Sunday to produce evidence showing

that Mrs Gilford is not mentally competent," he said. We asked Frank Gilford's lawyers if they would let us have

any evidence to confirm that she is in a nursing home but they re-

We didn't have much choice. but to ask the Australians to help us'

fused," he said. "We didn't have much choice but to ask the courts in Australia to help us,

which they have done." The lawyer said that Mr Gilford's mother, who is believed to suffer from Alzheimer's Discase, is not mentally competent to agree with her son's call for execution.

Speculating on what might happen when Saudi proceedings resume tomorrow at the sharia court, Mr Dark said: "The judge will either say there can he no unanimous decision made because Mrs Gilford is not

competent.
"Or it might be decided that



Accused: The nurses Deborah Parry (left) and Lucille McLauchlan could be beheaded if found guilty of murder

some sort of guardian should be appointed to make the decision on her behalf.

Michael Boylan, representing Frank and Muriel Gilford, said the Australian proceedings were an attempt to interfere in the trial and were an abuse of legal process.

He said Frank Gilford's comments had been made through his lawyers in Saudi Arabia and were outside the jurisdiction of the Australian court.

It is possible, though unlikely, that the case will finish this weekend. No Westerner has been exe

cuted in Saudi Arabia although dozens of foreigners, mostly Asians convicted of drug smuggling, are executed in the kingdom every year.

The dead nurse's body was found in December in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex, where the three

worked. Forensic reports showed that the victim had been

stabbed 13 times, beaten and

Foreign dissidents face jail in crackdown on terrorism

lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Foreign extremists in Britain plotting to carry out terrorism abroad could be jailed under proposals being considered by

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that it was at an early stage of examining whether to introduce new legislation to outlaw dissidents conspiring to commit crimes in other

The move follows growing concern that London is being used as a base by extremists to plot or finance terrorist attacks. The powers could be used to

silence people such as the Saudi dissident Mohamed al-Masari

who has waged a campaign by

violent overthrow of the Saudi royal family.

Israel has also complained to Britain that radical Arab groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad are using London as a conduit for funds.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a letter to the Board of Jewish Deputies that Labour was "carefully considering the question of introduc-ing legislation that would give the courts jurisdiction over acts of conspiracy performed in this country in respect of criminal acts abroad".

A private member's Bill by the Tory MP Nigel Waterson during the last Parliament bad a similar objective but failed because there was no quorum

fax machine from Britain for the in the Commons. This led to a slanging match between the parties, each blaming the other for the break down.

Mr Masari successfully fought an attempt last year by Michael Howard, the then Tory Home Secretary, to have him deported to the Caribbean island of Dominica.

Mr Howard was forced to make a U-turn after a High Court ruling that he had circumvented the UN Convention on Refugees for "diplomatic and trade reasons". His presence in Britain was an embarrassment for the Tory Government. It had been keen to maintain friendly relations with the Saudis in order to preserve £20bn of arms sales and protect



The world hates the French.. and they don't like each other PARIS DAYS

Great Debate in the British Press," said the headline in Le Figuro. 'Are the French De-

The Daily Mail sent a re-porter to find out. He discovered the French were appalling. Was there any chance that the Mail might have reached the opposite conclusion?

The great debate has been raging for three weeks (or, if you insist, for over 900 years). It started with a survey of tourists by the Paris Chamber of Commerce, which concluded that many foreign visitors, and not just the British, regarded France as a wonderful country, scarred by the fact that it was inhabited by the French.

The British found the natives arrogant, rude and disorganised; the Germans thought they were arrogant, rude and unwashed. And so on.

This was cheered in the British tabloid press as an own goal: that is, the French are so insufferable that they are forced to admit it themselves. In truth, the report pointed to something else: the French, or some of the French, are aware they climb (one way or another) up the nasal cavities of foreign visitors and they are trying to do something about it.

In my experience, the French, especially younger generations of French people, are not quite so implacably and splendidly rude to foreigners as they used

The second salvo of cross-Channel bile was fired by the small Cotswolds town of Stowin-the-Wold, which might now, perhaps, consider changing its name to Stuck-in-the-Mud. Its parish council rejected a plan to twin with a French town, citing grievances ranging from the mad cow dispute to the Hundred Years War.

Twinning, if it has any purpose at all, is intended to overcome dotty and vacuous prejudices of this kind: Stow preferred to cherish its

prejudices. The French were rather wounded by this rejection. They knew the British liked to make fun of them but did not suspect such outright hostility existed. Some of the post-Stow commentary in French press was also over the top; it failed to point out that scores of British towns and villages are contentedly twinned with similar places in France and, in some cases,

What, for instance, does Bolton have in common with Le Mans? And yet the towns have been happily twinned for more

than 20 years. (I did try to check how many French towns and villages are twinned with British ones; but this is August. The only person at the French twinning association, Cités Unies, who knew how to work the computer was away on holiday.)

Julian Barnes, the fran-cophile British novelist, attempted this week to place the disorganised-detestable-French debate in perspective. In an open letter to the people of France, published in Le Figaro. he told them, in effect: yes, you are awful but that's what makes you French and you mustn't change. We would hate that even more.

He summed up: "Your historic role in Europe, especially for the British, is to embody Otherness ... Don't wash just to please the Germans. Don't organise yourselves better just to please the British. Do you see that pavement? Let your dog do its business on it without hesitation. It's your patriotic duty."

There is a rich paradox here. France is already the most visited country in the world. The decline of the franc means France is likely to break all records for receiving foreigners this year: well over 60 million, including 10 million from

Not only do many of these visitors say they dislike the French; many of the French say they dislike the visitors. As the Enchainé commented, turning the conclusion of the Parisian visitor survey on its head: "The French like tourism but not tourists."

They are hardly alone in this. But, as I tried to explain once before (only to be accused of French-bashing), there is a particular difficulty for the French in getting on with for-eigners because they don't read-

Yes, you are awful but that's what makes you French ... don't wash to please the Germans or get organised to please

the British' Julian Barnes



There are signs of change, especially among the younger generations

one another. Chimminess is not

More precisely, France operates on the basis of familiarity and established groups of relatives, friends and clients. If you are a stranger, whether foreign or otherwise, you should expect the minimum service and maximum charge. Once you become an established member of a community, how-

able to secure croissants from her usual suppliers. On Monday, she apologised, almost tearfully: I could have no croissant with my coffee. By Tuesday, she had located an alternative source. There were no croissants displayed on the counter. They were too precious to offer to the public. But she came to me furtively and triumphantly with a croissant on a small white plate and said: "Look, I managed to get

I go to the same café every

morning to read the French

newspapers. Madame, the pa-

tronne, is fearsomely rude to

foreign tourists who show the

slightest hesitation in giving

their order. But she brings my

usual coffee and croissant with

a smile. This week, with half of

Paris closed down, she was un-

you one... I sat staring out at the deserted boulevard, chomping proudly what might have been - Marlon Brando eat your heart out - The Last Croissant in

significant shorts

Buthelezi party storms out of peace talks with the ANC

South Africa's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party withdrew South Africa's Zuiu-based inkaina rreedom Party withdrew from talks to end bitter decade-long turf wars with President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress. The Inkatha chairman, Ben Ngubane, cited the bias shown against his party at Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings this week as the main reason. Mangosuthu
Buthelezi, the IFP leader and Home Affairs Minister in Mr
Mandela's cabinet, was accused at hearings this week of
knowing about killings carried out by IFP-aligned

Bomb damages Swedish stadium

A bomb destroyed part of a sports stadium in Stockholm A bomb destroyed part of a sports stadium in Stockholm but no one was hurt. The device, which exploded in the press stand, spread debris and bricks into a nearby street. There was no warning of the explosion, which followed a number of attacks on sports arenas. Swedish media have linked them to opponents of Stockholm's bid for the 2004 Summer Olympics. "I'm very sorry to hear about it," the International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Semaranch said

Rebel bishop denounces Pope's visit

The rebel French bishop Jacques Gaillot accused the Pope of encouraging militant anti-abortion groups by honouring one of their heroes during a visit to France this month. Mgr Gaillot, ousted by the Vatican from his diocese in 1995 because of his views, said a visit to the grave of the Jerome Lejeune would be seen as symbolic support for the militant

Suspected spy beaten to death

A man suspected of being a police spy was beaten to death at a Nairobi rally and hundreds of opposition supporters took to the streets to press demands for reform. Some 1,000 activists turned up for the rally to hear speakers demand reforms from President Daniel arap Moi before elections due this year. A man identified as Gilbert Ahanya Simiyu was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Italy plays down Somalia torture cases

Italy confirmed that soldiers tortured Somalis on a peace-keeping mission but a report said the abuses were not widespread and senior officers were largely blameless. The report was produced by a commission set up after the press printed allegations of rape, murder and brutality by Italian soldiers serving in a US-led humanitarian mission to Somalia from 1992 to 1994. Reuters - Rome

Sob story on Elvis anniversary

The town of Deurne has been rocked by claims that a bust of Evis Presley has started to weep. As the 20th anniversary of his death approaches, a Dutchman says his statue of the King has begun to shed "tears of joy". "He is crying for all his fans around the world," Toon Nieuwenhuisen said. "He knows how much they love him." Reuters - Deume

Mean greens wreck kitchen

When an explosion rocked a flat in Vladimir, near Moscow, firefighters and police scaled a ladder to a shattered kitchen window, unsure of what they would find. Rather than a bomb, they discovered only two shattered jars of pickled cucumbers that a housewife had placed on a shelf in the

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in association with THE INDEPENDENT

Miracle-worker pulls off deal among feuding Bosnians

The Europeans wheedle and threaten to little or no effect. United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright harangues Presidents Tudjman and Milosevic in public - and in vain. But when Richard Holbrooke steps back onto the stage the feuding leaders of former Yugoslavia suddenly, almost miraculously, agree to a host of issues that have held up all progress on the Bosnian peace deal for months and even threatened to plunge the country back into armed conflict.

Yesterday Mr Holbrooke, the US envoy who pulled off the peace deal for Bosnia at Day-ton, Ohio, in December 1995, pulled off another deal on diplomatic posts, the telephone system and passports - all of which had appeared totally insoluble until he arrived back in former Yugoslavia two days ago on another whirlwind diplomatic mission at the request of President Bill Clinton.

Under the package, Bosnia's ambassador to the United Naington will go to a Serb and Tokyo to a Bosnian Croat. The other 30-odd diplomatic postings will be distributed equably between the three communities.

Leaders of the Muslim-Croat federation and the self-govern-ing Bosnian Serb entity also agreed to set up a commission on the Bosnian telephone network - the business of a single country code having bedevilled ties be-



Holbrooka: Recalled for

tween the two Bosnian entities recommend their partners to reand assumed enormous, sinister, significance for the Serbs. Several disputes evaded so-

lution even by Mr Holbrooke. Among them are Bosnia's new currency and final responsibility for issuing passports and resolving questions of citizenship. Both are pressing issues for the Bosnian Serbs, as they will affect their independence from the want to unite their currency with Belgrade, not Sarajevo. They also want to give several hundred thousand Serb refugees from Croatia full citizenship, which Sarajevo opposes.

But the US envoy was satisfied. These are steps forward and retty solid ones," he said after 10 hours of meetings. The US and the European

Union states suspended recogminion of Bosnia's present, Muslim-dominated ambassadorial corps after an internationally imposed deadline for the distribution of posts among Muslims Serbs and Croats ran out on I August. German officials brooke being recalled for this yesterday said they would now one-off special mission.

sume diplomatic contact with Sarajevo immediately as a result

Mr Holbrooke yesterday headed for the northern town of Banja Luka to show his support for the so-called "moderate" Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic, in her power struggle with the former Bosnian Serb president and indict-Sarajevo government The Serbs ed war criminal Radovan After his triumph at Dayton

in 1995, which ended Bosnia's bloody three-and-a-half-year civil war, Mr Holbrooke left the diplomatic field for private business. Since then, Bosnia's peace process has all but collapsed and the more emollient tactics of his successors in mediation have only persuaded the Bosnian factions that they can get away with not fulfilling any of the Day-ton provisions. President Clinton's fears that it would not be possible to withdraw 8,000 US peacekeepers next year, therefore, led to the bullish Mr Hol-

tions will be a Muslim, Wash-

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Embers of Berlin cigarette wars smoulder on

Imre Karacs

After more than 40 deaths in Berlin's notorious eigarette wars, 16 members of the city's top Vietnamese mafia appeared yesterday in a bullet-proof

controom, opening the biggest trial in post-war Germany against organised crime. Hiding his coldier into the cameras, "Ngoc the Merciful" led his soldiers into the room. Mr Ngoc, whose real name is Le Duy Bao, was allegedly the leader of the eponymous Ngoc Thien gang, the terror of the Berlin underworld.

His men controlled threequarters of the illicit cigarette trade worth 1.5hn German marks annually. Mr Ngoc and his cohorts, including his 16year-old girlfriend who collapsed in court yesterday, are charged with nine counts of murder, extortion, kidnapping and illegal possession of

By the time Mr Ngoc, 26, and his closest aides were arrested than 40 Vietnamese had been napped.

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rimally murdered in the in-

ternecine battle for Berlin. The police were clueless. They were led to the gang's hide-out by a Vietnamese in a raid last September, more woman whom they had kid-

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Even with the boss behind bars the war continued, until most of the rest of the gang were wound up during a shootout in December with a rival group. About 30 of Mr Ngoc's alleged associates are still at liberty, but

appear to have been silenced recently by their foes.

The origins of the conflict go back to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, when Vietnamese East Germany were left sud- corners flogging their wares.

denly without a livelihood. Profiting initially from the low price of cigarettes in Eastern Europe, the Vietnamese set up a simple smuggling operation, and startstudents and guest workers in ed to appear on Berlin's street

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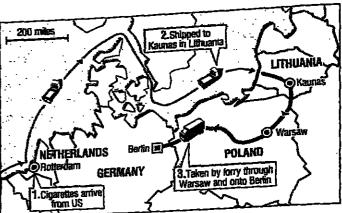
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By 1993 the cottage industry had grown into big business, sparking the first clashes among groups organised along regional ines. The Quang-Bihn gang from central Vietnam managed to rub out the leader of the

Round up: Police arrest a suspected member of a Vietnamese gang in the fight against organised illegal cigarette selling in Berlin. The problem has moved from the streets to the estates. Below shows the route the illegal Photograph: F Blickle/Network cigarettes now take



North Vietnamese mafia, It was in response to this killing that Mr Ngoc allegedly set up his own outfit, reorganising the North Vietnamese into a potent

military force. Mr Ngoc's group proved un-stoppable, taking more than 800 out of Berlin's 1,200 selling points. Each eigarette vendor had to pay up to DM14,000 (£4,700) to the organisation for a street location protected by the mob. Those who did not

pay up were beheaded.

The other groups called up reinforcements from the old country. Soon several armies were fighting it out. The death toll stood above 30 when Mr Ngoc made his biggest move in May last year, allegedly dispatching seven people, all suspected Quang-Bihn soldiers, to their deaths. The victims were found tied up with two bullets each in the head.

The Berlin police set up a special task force to fight the mobs. but their ensuing success owed more to gang rivalry than diligent detective work. Mr Ngoc and his people were shopped by their unierworld enemies.

The trade is now believed to ake place in flats in East Berlin's housing estates and there are signs the gangs are ex- cigarette trade seem premature.

panding to other cities in the

invisible enemy has become harder. All they know is that the Quang-Bihn gang are the new masters, and their soldiers have been spotted in Leipzig and the Czech Republic.

points from Poland.

then goes directly to Berlin nia, where it is reloaded onto a lorry, mysteriously avoiding Lithuanian tax. The lorry then rettes are packed into furniture

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The police's task against the

Meanwhile, smuggling is be-coming a white-collar crime, employing sophisticated ac-

counting tricks to evade the law. Only a small portion of the cigarettes, which sell for half their shop price, reach Berlin via the "ant-trade" - hidden in columns of cars crawling past the border Most of the goods, arriving by

ship from the US, are loaded onto lorries at bonded warehouses in Rotterdam. Posing as legitimate importers, the mobsters' agents avoid excise duty in the Netherlands. The cargo and vanishes. Or it is loaded onto boats heading for Lithuagoes to Poland where the cigabound for Germany. Even with the biggest gang behind bars, reports of the death of the illicit

Test benefits of cannabis. say American scientists

Washington (AP) – Marijuana marijuana use in treating should be scientifically tested on patients to determine if smoking the weed can help sick people combat nausea and other vention are based on a benefiterious conditions, a panel of risk calculation," the report United States experts has

of experts said that scientific study of marijuana's medical value should be separated "from the societal debate over the potential harmful effects of non-medical marijuana use." The committee called on the National Institutes of Health to

patients.

"All decisions on the ultimate usefulness of a medical intersaid. "Marijuana should be no exception to this generally accepted principle.

For treatment of some conpromising enough to recommend that there be new controlled studies." committee chairman Dr William Beaver of Washington's Georgetown University School of Medicine, is "facilitate" grants studying quoted as saying in the report.



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حكذا من الاحل

Dogs of war straining at the leash

Beirut

Ider on.

Mit- dirannar

Just 16 months after Israel's bloody "Grapes of Wrath" op-eration left almost 200 Lebanese civilians dead, history is repeating itself in southern Lebanon. Lebanese civilians are cut to pieces by Israeli and that the injured Israeli shells or blown up by bombs for which the Israelis and Hizbollah guerrillas blame each other – while pro-Israeli militiamen and Hizbollah members die almost daily. Israel yesterday promised to revenge Hizbollah "terror" after two rockets - which Hizbollah say they never fired - exploded over the Israeli border, slightly wounding an Israeli woman. This is how it all began last time.

The horror of another war in matched only by its predictability - and, as usual, the rhetoric was coming yesterday almost as fast as the shellfire. Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the Hizbollah leader, and Moshe Fogel, the Israeli government spokesman, were roaring like lions in Beirut and Jerusalem far enough from the battlefield to know that they were unlikely to be among the casualties each vowing to strike back at the other for their respective attacks

With equal predictability, radio and television coverage focused on the two Katyushas which hit Israel as the "start" of a new crisis - ignoring the fact that the crisis has been building over the past month with a series of Lebanese deaths, most of whom were civilians.

Sayed Nasrallah's remarks at a press conference in Beirut were not likely to dispel the pessimism. The south Lebanon cease-fire - backed by a fivepower truce committee - was no longer protecting civilians, he said. "We say that returning to use other means to protect civilians has become necessary - what remains is the right timing and wisdom to safeguard civilians." But he did not say if cluding their head of guerrilla these "other means" meant further Katyusha attacks on Israel, and denied that the two missiles fired vesterday morning came from the Hizbollah.

When his organisation used missiles, he said, they claimed them. "We're not the kind who launch rockets at night and hide in the morning."

The Israelis reported that a synagogue was damaged by one of the rockets - which may have been fired by Palestinians woman had been hit by pieces of glass. In fact, over the past months, civilian deaths - at least 20 have been recorded have been entirely confined to Lebanese, most of them killed by Israel or its "South Lebanon Army" militia allies, although the mother and her two children killed by a bomb at Merkaba on Thursday may well have been the victims of a Hizbollah booby-trap aimed at the Israelis.

There might be some reason southern Lebanon is thus to hope for an end to hostilities if the Syrian-Israeli-Lebanese-American-French cease-fire committee - which is to meet again tomorrow - was taken more seriously.

At the most recent session, however, the Lebanese delegate spent some time arguing that the Israelis were "trivialising" the committee by raising minor incidents, while his Israeli opposite number spent an equal amount of time complaining that the Lebanese delegate was trying to "show off" to the new chairmen of the committee. This, needless to say, is not the stuff of which peace is made.

It is not difficult to find reasons for the frustration of both sides. In the occupation zone, the Israelis - losing soldiers weekly to Hizbollah attacks while their "SLA" allies are deserting or passing information to the Hizbollah - are holding a militarily untenable area with little purpose or future.

The occupation zone cannot stop rocket attacks on Israel as the April 1996 war proved all too vividly - but cannot be abandoned without loss of face by a right-wing Likud govern-ment. The Hizbollah, after the killing of five of their men - inoperations for Nabatea - by Israeli booby-trap bombs this week, have sworn to retaliate. Civilian casualties have been

treated with the deepest cyni-

cism. When Israeli planes bombed a hill in southern Lebanon this week, killing two farmers, the Israeli military spokesman claimed "accurate

مكذا من الاعل

South Lebanon crisis: Civilians in line of fire as Hizbollah and Israel set about each other with shells, bombs and missiles

hits" on "terrorist targets." This may be comforting news for Israelis but it sounded little less than obscene to a Lebanese audience. Nor is there any end in sight. The Hizbollah attacked another "SLA" position yesterday at Tayr Harfa with 15 mortars, one of them a direct hit. The Israelis responded with 25 shells from mortars, artillery and tanks. No one was wound-



Yehuda market, the site of last week's double suicide bombing

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Before

After

Rocket attack raises stakes in border zone

Eric Silver Jerusalem

Israel was anxious last night to avert an escalation of violence across the Lebanese border following the first Katyusha rocket attack on Israeli civilians for 16 months.

The ground-to-ground rockets hit a synagogue in the north-ern town of Kiryat Shmona during early-morning prayers. A woman passer-by was lightly wounded by flying glass. Hundreds of trippers cancelled weekend visits to Galilee.

Under a deal which ended Israel's Grapes of Wrath operation last year, Israel and the Hizbollah Shia militia agreed not to target civilian popula-tions. Until yesterday, Hizbollah had kept its side of the bargain, though the low-intensity war between the Israeli army and the militia has continued in Israel's self-pro-claimed South Lebanese security zone.

The Katyusha raid on longsuffering Kiryat Shmona, where the locals take to their shelters at the first hint of trouble, came at the end of a week of mounting mayhem. Helicopter-borne Israeli commandos killed two Hizbollah chieftains and three of their men.

Hizbollah retaliated by killing four Lebanese civilians and a soldier in the Israeli-sponsored "South Lebanese Army". A multinational monitoring committee is to consider complaints from both sides tomorrow.

The Israelis were encouraged, however, by yesterday's have been able to hit only a nar-Hizboliah announcement from row strip on the Israeli side of Beirut that the Islamic Party of the border. Israel would rather God was not responsible for the not give Hizbollah a pretext for Katyusha firing on Kiryat testing any longer-range mod-Shmona. As one official put it el, which would increase the in Jerusalem, "What's important is not whether they are tack and the political pressures telling the truth, but that they that would generate.



Netanyahu: Sanctions may yet prove hard to justify

want to cool things down." On the eve of a new initiative by the American Middle East peace co-ordinator, Dennis Ross, Israel too is not looking for a reture bout with Hizbollah.

The Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has enough on his plate with the Palestinians, not least because claims that the 30 July suicide bombers, who killed 13 civilians in a Jerusalem market, infiltrated from abroad are looking increasingly plausible. If this is confirmed, it will be much harder for Mr Netanyahu to justify the crushing sanctions he imposed on Palestinian workers and travellers.

Israeli officials are also disturbed by intelligence reports that Iran, Hizbollah's paymaster and principal supplier, has been trying to extend the range of the Katyushas. Up to now, the antiquated Russian rockets population vuinerable to atWorry no more. Alliance & Leicester has a

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Labour's first 100 days

JOHN PRESCOTT

JACK STRAW

new powers to tackle disorder and will

create new offences of racially motivated violence and harassment. We have already implemented other key manifesto commitments, including interesting a Giff to hea headring.

introducing a Bill to ban handguns.

Prisons have taken up much of my time over the last 100 days. Last month.

awarded the Service an extra £43m to

awarded the Service an extra £43m to cope with overcrowding. My department is presently drawing up legislation to incorporate into UK law the European Convention on Human Rights, and last month I announced that the 1999

European elections would be fought under a PR system.

Since 2 May I have announced: a

judicial inquiry into the Stephen Lawrence

nuclear inquiry into the Stephen Lawrence murder, further support for crime victims; new measures to help ex-prisoners find work; proposals for a new offence of corruption to include bribery of MPs; and plans for a new Race Relations Forum.

In the first fortnight in office I drew up a Mission Statement which set out four key

overseas posts to promote trade abroad

objectives:
To enhance Britain's security by promoting international stability and

To improve our quality of life by

working with others to protect the common environment and tackle

commitment to building a strong

democratic values. In Europe, we announced our intention to sign up to the Social

without indulging in petty

brought to justice.

HARRIET HARMAN

Secretary of State for

people of working age.

from the windfall tax.

Social Security

international community based on

Chapter. During the conclusion of

the inter-Governmental Conference we defended our national interests robustly

obstructionism.
The Government has played a leading role in strengthening the international

community's resolve to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement in Bosnia. We

have shown our determination to ensure that those indicted for war crimes are

successful transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong to China and begun the process of building a new relationship between Russia and an enlarged Nato.

Reforming the welfare state to reduce

poverty and weltare dependency is a

priority of this Government. We believe

that work is the best form of welfare for

In July, we launched our New Deal for

Lone Parents - a programme which will

provide opportunities to work for half a

with school age children, using £200m

Childcare is vital for many women to

get into work. The Budget put childcare

at the heart of our economic policy and

took the first step towards our National

Childcare Strategy. This will make child

care more accessible and affordable.

Disabled people with long-term ill

health are also being offering new opportunities. We will develop a

million lone parents on Income Support

where, we have ensured the

iostering strong alliances; To make maximum use of our

and create jobs at home;

international crime:

ROBIN COOK

Foreign Secretary

A stronger, fairer Britain? Ministers give their report on progress so far

abour marked its first 100 days in office yesterday by announcing that Tony Blair will give an annual statement on the Government's performance.

The Independent asked Cabinet ministers to provide an audit of what they believe they have achieved during the 100 days. We also returned to our panel of voters in Redditch, a group which personified the millions who switched their votes from Tory to Labour.

Issuing a check-list for the first 100 days. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the Government was delivering its side of a contract for a "stronger, fairer, modern Britain" without any sense of complacency.

"We believe we have got off to a flying start.

"You'll find

great end

of season

This is not the end of our crusade, but only the beginning," he said.
Peter Mandelson, minister without portfolio,

said it had "not been easy" and hard decisions had been taken.

Ministers across Whitehall have told The Independent in their end-of-term reports that they have found the pace of change "breath-taking".

The highlight of the 100 days for many was the decision by the IRA renew its ceasefire in Northern Ireland. But there have been many more changes, from independence for the Bank

of England to next month's referendums in Wales and Scotland on devolution. Leading article, page 13 Commentators, page 15



package of measures to help them get into work using up to £200m from the

And we are taking steps to ensure that everyone can enjoy a secure and dignified retirement. VAT on fuel has been cut to 5 per cent and we have announced a wide-ranging review of all aspects of pension provision.

MO MOWLAM Northern Ireland Secretary

We have begun to make the process of governance in Northern Ireland more open and included more people in open and included that properly in helping make key decisions on issues like public spending. We have injected new energy and resources into priorities education, NHS patient care and getting people off benefit and into work. We have taken decisive steps to

improve the prospects for lasting peace.

Much had been put in place by the previous government. We added clarity and new impetus.

Setbacks – such as the disturbances after the Drumcree parade – have been followed by advances like the peaceful outcome of the July 12th weekend. The IPA restored their ceasefire on

July 20th. The talks process will be in earnest on 15 September to tackle the core issues at the heart of Northern ireland's problems. We want to see all parties arguing their case on behalf of the people they represent



Harman: 'Reducing poverty and welfare dependency is priority

There is now an unprecedented opportunity to work through the talks for a new settlement that both unionists and nationalists communities in Northern ireland can support.

CHRIS SMITH Secretary of State for Culture, edia and Sport

We have consigned the backwardlooking Department of National Heritage to history and established a new Department for Culture, Media and Sport - signifying a new approach to Britain's 450 billion creative industries in less than three months, actions have spoken louder than words:

The Creative Industries Task Force: l asked Richard Branson, David Puttnam, Paul Smith, Alan McGee and others to spearhead the Government's support for arts, music, media, tourism

and intellectual property.

The National Lottery White Paper sets the set lettery. 21bn of lottery money will be spent on health and education projects, as well as on NESTA - the nation's fund for talent. The Millennium: I announced that the

exhibition at Greenwich would go ahead and declared that more than £1bn worth and oecared that more than of place.
of projects would be taking place.
British Film: I announced a £92.5m lottery cash boost to three new film franchises and new tax breaks for the

British Sport: £55m has gone to the Football Trust to improve ground safety and and we have set up the Football Trust Football Trust Football Task Force.

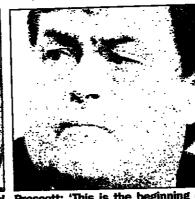
Broadcasting: We removed the outdated Channel Four funding formula to help C4 spend more on diverse programme-making and British film.

MARGARET BECKETT President of the Board of Trade

As one of my first actions, I wrote to businesses throughout the country, committing myself to working with business. I have delivered on this promise. As a first step, I launched Competitiveness UK. We have: Established a Taskforce for

Competitiveness in Europe; held a Competitiveness Summit; announced a new Advisory Group, plans for a White Paper and, most recently, published proposals for the reform of UK competition law

Announced a wide-ranging review of utility regulation, pledged to introduce electricity and gas competition. Awarded £35m support for research and training periods to improve the control of training the control and training projects to improve UK competitiveness.



Prescott: 'This is the beginning of our crusade

Demonstrated our commitment to support of small and medium-sized firms by launching the Smaller Firms Guidance Project and proposals to introduce a right for small firms to claim interest on the late payment of debts.

Announced a review of options to give the Post Office greater commercial freedom and introduced legislation to reform management of the radio

Freed money for research into astronomy and announced Foresight awards of £10m to help science and business collaborate.

LORD RICHARD Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords

The colitical situation in the Lords is almost a mirror image of that in the Commons. With 126 Peers taking the Labour Whip, we have effectively a

But, we have succeeded where we needed. The Government has put two Bills meeting key manifesto commitments on to the statute book in

A former British Gas travel manag-

The Blair revolution ... in their own words three months - on the decouples referendums and phasing out the Assisted Places scheme We look forward to major pilis

We look forward to major pills delivering our manifesto commitments on devolution; crime and disorder, standards in schools, the European convention on human rights, reform of the Lottery; a national minimum wage, the London referendum, and regional development.

CLARE SHORT International Development Secretary

When Tony Blair spoke at the UN Earth Summit in New York in June, the atmosphere was electric. My Department's contribution to the speech was the commitment to support the international target of halving world poverty by 2015 and to reverse the decline in our aid spend until we reach decline in our aid spend until we reach the 0.7 of GNP UN target The OECD's development committee

The OECD's development committee has picked up targets from UN Conferences and called on the world to commit to halving extreme poverty by 2015. This means getting all the children of the world into primary education, basic health care, and clean water for all. I have set myself the task of doing all I can to mobilise the political will My White Paper setting out the details of this work will be published shortly. My aim is to leave behind me an

My aim is to leave behind me an international commitment to poverty elimination and the measurement of progress year on year

ANN TAYLOR Leader of the House

Management of the Government's heavy legislative programme: modernisation of the House of Commons, and anti-drugs co-ordination have been the key areas of my work since we have been in

Government
In our first 100 days, 18 Government
In our first 100 days, 18 Government
Bills were introduced (compared with 10
in 1979): six Bills received Royal Assent:
four White Papers were published; and 15 oral statements made.

I have set about modemising the House of Commons, which has included improving Prime Minister's Guestion Time and setting up a Select Committee on Modernisation In the autumn a Daily Agenda will raplace the order paper Some Bills will be carried over to the next session, ensuring vital work is not wasted and there will be better pre-

wasted and mere will be better pre-legislative inquiry stage, with con-sultation within and outside the House. Drugs Challenge Fund awards have been set up, with £2m going to 79 anti-drugs partnerships. An extra £1m has been generated from business and voluntary sectors. We also plan to advertise for UE Anti Drugs Co-ordinator

JACK CUNNINGHAM Agriculture Minister

Our manifesto aims were to make consumer involvement and protection the recognised cornerstone of MAFF's role, to improve standards of animal welfare; and to get the EU ban on British beef exports lifted as soon as possible Within a matter of days, I announced my intention to undate the ministry to my intention to update the ministry to become more open and accountable including preparing a new mission statement and a change of name. By mid-June Elliot Morley, Minister

for Fisheries and the Countryside, had drawn up new rules to improve the welfare of livestock being transported. A tough approach to hygiene standards

in abattoirs was also pursued Jeff Rooker, Minister for Food Safety, announced on 21 July that to improve openness and information to consumers the brand names of products tested in food surveys would be given when such results were published On 26 June, the McDonald's food

group announced that they would return to using British beet, and Burger King did likewise several days later. On 23 July, the European Union agreed to introduce Europe-wide controls to remove specified materials from beet carcasses - matching existing

DR DAVID CLARK Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Office of Public Service

Our manifesto said that our aim would be to rebuild trust between the Government and the people by: cleaning up politics; rooting out public spending waste and inefficiency; and listening to the people and developing services to meet their needs In 100 days, we have made a significant start in making the

segmental start in making the government a genuine servant of the people. We have started by:
Changing the culture of secrecy in Whitehall by showing our commitment for Freedom of Information legislation.
Approximation starts to make discrete.

Announcing steps to make quangos fully answerable. ssuing a tough new Code stating that ministers should be accountable to

Parliament. Setting up a new Better Regulation Unit to reduce burdens on business. and ensure that regulations are

necessary.

Planning the introduction of a Food

Standards Agency.
Considering a People's Panel
whereby the public tell us their views on government services.

Tory deserters breathe sigh of relief old pace, but I'm not sure they are

Michael Streeter

The land of Mondeo man has given a cautious welcome - a C+ rating - to the first 100 days of New Labour.

Those on The Independent's election panel in Redditch, Worcestershire, who switched their votes to Tony Blair sec little reason to regret their change; most are quietly impressed with the party's move to power. There is little sense of excitement though, just relief.

Equally, most of those who stayed with the devil they knew and voted Conservative can pick out enough wrong in just three months to vindicate their decision.

The one issue which unifies them is concern over money - and the regular increases in interest rates since polling

mondeo

"Since they've been in everything seems to have gone up. My mortgage costs about £10 to £15 a month extra."

But he adds: "I think I always knew the rates would have to go up once the election was over. I'm still glad they got in, but I think I'll be able to give a better view in 12 months." Brian Nicholls, a butcher aged 60, who

also made the switch for the first time. is even more cautious. "I think it was a smart move of the Chancellor's to let the Bank of England decide interest Mark Redfern, 29, an engineer, who voted Labour for the first time, said: it's early days, isn't it?" he said. rates, as it gets him out of hot water. But

er Roger Frost, 54, likes the calm, purposeful way the Home Secretary Jack Straw has acted, citing the inquiry into the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence. "I also still like the way Tony Blair is

handling things. I've no regrets. The interest rates help with the savings. Craig Coates, 37, a local authority

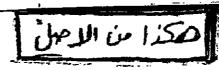
administrator, admits he was a "sceptical" first-time Labour voter, but is so far impressed with the Government's positive attitude. "I knew the Conservatives were keeping interest rates down so the rises haven't surprised me." But he added: "Nothing's really hit them yet, has it?"

The caution gives way to outright scepticism among the Tory voters. Susan Lovett, 38, a former sales consultaut, is struck by the activity of New Labour. "They seem to be going at a fair

achieving a lot. For example on devo-lution - how effective is it going to be?" Meanwhile Denise Sparkes, 35, a dressmaker, is unhappy at plans to charge for university tuition and suggestions the age of consent for gays should be lowered to 16. "And I was proved right on interest rates - it's

costing us £40 a month more."
But Lionel Baird, 52, a paramedic. conceded he may not have been right in voting Tory. "It can leave a bad taste in the mouth but sometimes you have to admit you've got it wrong. So far I've been pleasantly surprised with the Government.

Roger Jones, 42, the only one of the panel to vote Liberal Democrat, was less enthusiastic. "There's been nothing earth-shattering so far, it's been middle of the road - what some people have described as a lukewarm government



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Mr Blair's first 100 days: we like what we see

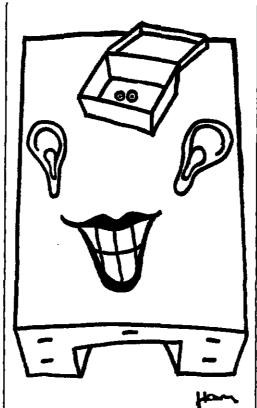
ony Blair himself was never that keen on the idea of the "Hundred Days". | with an ironic sense of history said was supposed to look like a "spontaneous outpour-That sort of thing usually ends in tears, he said, when he stressed that he was not promising the Earth, and that making a difference would take time. That was before the election, of course, and now looks like a clever feint so that we would be the more surprised by the energy and pace of the Government's

But he also said that "the project" would not become clear to people "until you are in government and you're doing things". In opposition, he only ever gave us an antiideology. He was against dogma; a shirtsleeved manager with common-sense, pragmatic views. And so it came to pass in government. Equally, in opposition he never gave us his character. He adjusted his message instinctively for different audiences, not pretending to be things he was not, but never revealing quirks or prejudices that might offend. The voters had no objection to what they knew of him, but now they know him better, and it should be easier to disentangle his personality from the various personae constructed for him. So what do Mr Blair's first 100 days tell us about the character of the

On the first day of the new dawn there was a carefully orchestrated photo-opportunity in Downing Street which one Labour official

ing of workers from factories and offices". The portrayal of Everyman with his stylish wife and attractive children amid a sea of Union Jacks was propaganda, but it was also true to the man. Despite the unconvincing tone of Mr Blair's self-deprecatory jokes about not recognising himself as Prime Minister, there is something resolutely unstatesmanlike about him. Much of his first few weeks in office were spent abroad, féted as, if not the great young hope for the world, the brightest prospect for managerial centrism (with a social conscience) since Kennedy. But television footage of him on a bicycle or running from one meeting to the next at the Amsterdam summit did not convert into a largeness of stature. This is not a fault, however, but a strength. Mr Blair cannot be a larger-than-life personality because he does not have the self-blindness of a Thatcher, or a Kohl, or a Kennedy. The "people who live in the dark" may want to present him as a conviction politician in the Thatcher mould, but ultimately they cannot do it because that is not what he wants to be.

Instead, Mr Blair is supremely good at epitomising what we would like to be as a nation. When he does his "I am one of you" routines (closely modelled, one suspects, on Clinton's "I feel your pain"), what he really seems to be saying is: "Don't you want to be one of



me?" And, on the whole, we do. An over-whelming majority of the nation would like to be smart but casual and drive a Ford Galaxy full of football- and Spice-Girl-mad children. And have the exciting job and the high-powered (and attractive) spouse. Everyone in Britain aspires to be informal middle class even toffs and royalty - with all three mem-bers of Prince Charles's crowded marriage falling over each other in their rush to kick a football around the Chequers lawn. There is something else, too, that we have

learnt of Mr Blair's modesty since 1 May. He has been accused of being autocratic, while beginning a programme of democratic powersharing more radical than anything since the Civil War. What his critics have failed to see is that 10 Downing Street may be at the centre of a tightly controlled web in matters of presentation, but the initiative for policy has genuinely been devolved to departments, especially the devolution from Downing Street to Mr Blair's closest political ally, Gordon Brown. David Blunkett astutely recognised the importance of this point, flooding the Chancellor with memos. Mr Brown is firmly in the driving seat when it comes to the domestic policy decisions that matter: independence for the Bank of England, the "welfare-towork" programme, billions from the reserves for education. The one big decision directly attributed to the Prime Minister was heavily presentational – the go-ahead for the Millennium Dome – which is why the job then passed on to Mr Blair's other closest political ally, Peter Mandelson.

It is clearer than ever that policy will be looked at regardless of where it comes from. In his eagerness to bring in business leaders, Mr Blair has tripped up on the sleaze issue, simply because it never occurred to him that he would be judged by the same standards as the outgoing government. But in the longer term, the significance of Lord Simon's appointment is as a token of Mr Blair's pluralism. He has brought in Liberal Democrats and given free rein to Labour figures such as Frank Field and Stephen Byers, whose views most jangle ancient inner-party nerves.

And proposals will be tested against pragmatic criteria - and, above all, market-tested with focus groups and opinion polls. Mr Blair would no doubt protest that policies will also be judged against "values", but this is perhaps the largest area of outstanding doubt. So far, what is striking about his values is how unspecific and consensual they are. Neither the values nor the character of Mr Blair have been tested by crisis - partly because this Labour Government unexpectedly faced a sterling appreciation crisis, rather than devaluation, on coming to office. Until something does go seriously wrong, all judgements are bound to remain heavily provisional.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Health authority covered up failures in psychiatric care

Sir, Your report "Inquiry into deaths finds mental health unit at fault" (2 August) has uncharacteristically missed the point. Sane does not object to families remaining anonymous if they wish. Nor do we want to see blame placed on individual doctors or nurses, although, as professionals, we need to know why the system fails so frequently, and who should be made accountable.

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ATTENDED OF SUREM

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In May 1994, faced with increasing public concern about homicides involving mental patients, the NHS Executive instructed health authorities to initiate independent inquiries into every case. The publication of these inquiry, the report of the inquiry

painstaking inquiries has been the major source of evidence of what has gone wrong with psychiatric care both in the community and in hospital, and they are widely used in attempts to improve the service nationally.
When Paul Medley walked out of

the Royal Oldham Hospital's psychiatric unit in September 1994 and killed Harry Johnstone, the West Pennine Health Authority set up an independent inquiry, as it was required to do so. However, it also asked that the inquiry should consider the cases of four other "clients" of the hospital.

Unlike any previous homicide

into "the treatment and care of five individual patients by Oldham NHS Trust" was not published, on grounds of patient confidentiality.

The recommendations and some conclusions of the report did not mention the homicide, nor that the other four individuals were dead, having committed suicide. Thus patient confidentiality was, sadly, no longer an issue. All four cases were the subject of a coroner's inquest and were therefore in the public

Keith Jones, commissioning director for the West Pennine Health Authority, said he could not compromise confidentiality, and that he had personally approached

the families, who had unanimously asked that the report should not be published. Within hours, Mary Smith, mother of one of the suicides, broadcast on radio and television asking for publication of the full report. Another of the families has called the report a "cover-up".

It is hard to escape the conclusion that the health authority used the cloak of confidentiality to obscure the truth about the specific failures in mental health care provided in

MARIORIE WALLACE Chief Executive Sane, The Mental Health Charity

LETTER from THE EDITOR Rethink UK sanctions on Iraq

Sir: Geoff Simons (Letters; "Iraqis killed by sanctions", 1 August) is correct in pointing out yet more gaps in New Labour's supposed ethical foreign policy, but his point needs further emphasis.

The UK is not merely a member of the Security Council which renews sanctions on Iraq every two months, but is also, alongside the US, the principal supporter of the sanctions regime. Britain therefore bears considerable responsibility for the deaths resulting from what is termed in polite political conversation "the containment of Irag". The sanctions policy was barbaric in the aftermath of the Gulf War in 1991, it is even more barbaric six years later, when it no longer appears to serve any purpose other than to maintain the status quo in the Middle East. Despite the attempts of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, positive, killing is killing, it is not kindness. Seven years is too long, it is time to rethink the sanctions regime. SIMON FAULKNER Campaign Against Repression and For Democratic Rights in Iraq, North West Manchester

Children who aren't ready to read

Sir: Thomas Sutcliffe and his son are locked in mutual bafflement: son can't read and Dad can't understand

why not (Tabloid, 7 August). For years, I have been baffled over why the British force little children to read before they are reading-ready. Making the connection between spoken sounds and little squiggly symbols on paper is actually quite a complex process. There is plenty of well-documented evidence, acted on in the States and in Europe, that most children make this connection around the age of six or seven. That is when they start school, and they learn to read in weeks.

In the UK we start them off at barely five, some as young as four. We have confused nursery school with school. We mass-produce educational "failures" who need special education to help them out of their misery. It has become a British cottage industry to provide therapy for children who were taught formal lessons before their time.

Quintilian was right - wait till they are seven. Parents could play with their children and they could enjoy each other's company in those precious early years. What a thought! **RUTH VECHT** Special Needs Teacher London NW11

Pay per view

Sir: I have a suggestion on charging for, or, rather, the financing of, museums and galleries. Here in Italy, because I have reached ripe early middle age, I am entitled to enter the main galleries free of charge. Being as vain as any grande horizontale, and being paid decently for one of the. most enjoyable jobs in the world, I do not exercise that right. (I have tried claiming to be under 18, but that never works.)

My suggestion is that (thinking of the Gemaldesgalerie, Berlin, or the Museo Capodimonte, Naples, for example) our museums charge, say, five pounds. Those claiming, on their own say-so, to be under 25, or over 65 should be admitted free. Anyone cheating to get in deserves the educational experience thus gained. Professor ARTHUR MARWICK Royal Hosel, Naples

The writer is Professor of History at the Open University

Summer again, and the real editor escapes for a early," he snarled. "If it goes on

few days' peace—or so he thinks. Andrew Marr (Top Next me Man, as we call him here) chose for some reason known only to himself to take his famonly to himself to take his family off to Devon this week. Quite why he didn't go to France, where he can get silly numbers of francs for his pound, it's hard to say: that's certainly where the economics when to know where the ecutor's staying, down on the south coast? Well, there's a place near there they had three inches of rain yesterday. No kidding. In only a couple of hours, Chucking it down." And editor is going on holiday. Indeed, she had the foresight to buy her francs 10 days ago, when the pound was riding high. If she'd bought them yesterday she'd have been a lot smog out across the City. worse off, which just goes to Well, I thought, better ring show that, on matters of personal finance, you should trust the economics

Independent. Still, on day two Andrew called in just to see how things were going in his absence.
"Fine," said I. "Don't worry;
just relax and enjoy yourself."

"Humph," he said. "Right now we're cooped up in the kitchen, with three children going stir crazy; it's chucking it down outside, and anything but relaxing." Never mind, I assured him, the clouds will blow over, you'll have a lovely

Next morning the news edi-tor bounced into our morning conference suggesting that we send a photographer down to the Devon coast, because there were flood warnings all over: "Chucking it down, so I'm told," he declared cheerfully. Terrible pity for anyone on holiday there. Oh, isn't that where the editor's gone for his break? Perhaps we should ring him up and get him to send us a piece (chortle, chortle)."

Now, it is true, and I am ashamed to admit it, that most good journalists do have a small vein of mischief in their bodies that would incline them to be mildly amused, in a schadenfreude kind of way, at the thought of the Top Man pacing irritably up and down his Devon cottage kitchen muttering imprecations at the weather.

But I firmly pointed out that that was not fair, and that we should be more civil and understanding about it.

So I didn't ask Andrew to write a piece - I just rang him to - well, you know, ask what the weather was like. "Humph.

Next morning the news edi-tor breezed cheerfully into morning conference. "Guess what. You know where the ediwe all looked out of our 18thfloor windows in Canary Wharf, at the baking hot sun and the clear blue sky, marred only by the faint haze of yellow

been like in London?' 'Oh,' I lied,

as kindly as I could, 'a bit cloudy now and then, in between the unbearably hot and

really rather unpleasantly insistent sunshine'

the editor and commiserate. "Gather the weather's not so good down there. I hope you're still having a good time though," I said, as kindly as I could.

"Humph," came the reply. "What's the weather been like in London?"

"Oh," I lied, as kindly as I could, "a bit cloudy now and then, in between the unbearably hot and really rather unpleasantly insistent sunshine." There was a long pause, and I could almost hear him thinking what we all learn every summer, but then conveniently forget before the next time: holidays are never any less stressful than work - only the stress is different, which makes

it OK. Never mind, next week Andy's back, and things will look up again, and I'll escape for a few days with the family. We're off to - where was it again? Ah yes: mid-Devon. Best take the wellies.

Colin Hughes

QUOTE UNQUOTE

I hope it will soon become smart for the British sneerers to join the rest of the human race in loving Mr Bean - John Casey, Fellow of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge

I love sleeping. My greatest talent. I once fell asleep on stage, playing a statue of Queen Victoria – Nichola McAuliffe, actress

The assumption is that because we are surrounded with a plethora of sexual messages in the media, people are enjoying healthy, happy, sexual relationships. That is not the case - Anne

They won't be like Alan Clark's diaries, but the fall of Heath and the rise of Thatcher should prove of interest. I think eight volumes should be about right - Lord St John of Fawsley, Tory peer, who is about to publish his memoirs

Weyman, of the Family Planning Association

The English have a natural tendency to yobbishness. Ally this to collectivism, and you have a very nasty mixture - AN Wilson, author

Neil has taken to reading newspapers off the shelves in our local newsagent, but we always welcome copies of yesterday's from neighbours - Christine Hamilton announcing that her former Tory MP husband has been forced to cancel their newspaper subscriptions

No excuses for drug users, whoever they are

Sir: James Humphreys ("The cost to society is so great it makes me dizzy", 7 August) appears to believe that his friends is purely a matter between him and them. They are, after all, "adults", as he informs us. The point is, of course, that his opinion of the arrangement is completely irrelevant. He was doing something which he knew was illegal, and

deserved the consequences. There are indeed many people in prison who should not be, and the system should be so administered that petty and young offenders are not condemned by association with career criminals to a life of crime. Humphreys says that he is dizzied by the cost to society of imprisonment. but does not seem to acknowledge that, as a representative of the besteducated people in that society, it is his duty to contribute to its improvement. Instead he embraces

the habits of a criminal. Well-educated people who, rather than regret crimes committed out of self-indulgence rather than anything resembling need or pressure, say that the system is wrong, deserved the excesses of the last Home Secretary. whose exit from office is otherwise heartily to be welcomed. CITSHEPPARD Southampton

Energy from

London's waste

Sir: Mr Clement of the London

Planning Advisory Committee

he outlines assumes a conflict between recovering energy from

waste and recycling that is illusory.

waste management, in line with

public aspiration and Government policy, we must pursue an integrated

solution. Of course London should

target (40 per cent) is heroic indeed.

But a moratorium on new energy from waste plants in London will not

landfilling of millions more tonnes of

A balanced approach such as that

taken in other European capitals -

far from calling for yet more delay-

demands that much needed new

energy from waste capacity is

developed in parallel with major

efforts to increase recycling and

composting, so as to optimise value

recovery overall. In this way wider

such as greenhouse gas reduction

and increased generation from

Director, Energy from Waste

renewable sources.

RAY PALIN

Association London W2

environmental aims can also be met,

waste, with the associated emissions

of itself recycle one more bottle or

can. It will however result in the

of methane - a potent global

warming gas.

recycle more, though LPAC's new

To move towards more sustainable

(LPAC) is right to draw attention to

London's acute shortage of landfill

(Letters, 7 August). But the solution

Sir: Those who lobby against the legalisation of soft drugs try to justify criminalising something no alcohol.

The hypocrisy of this situation is infuriating. James Humphreys may well have been prosecuted, convicted, or even sentenced by somebody who enjoys occasional drug use. The only difference between Mr Humphreys and these respectable citizens is that his drug of choice is considered illegal. ALEC McEACHRAN Lichfield, Staffordshire

Sir: Perhaps James Humphreys has had time to reflect on the fact that, although he has never directly harmed another person, by buying illegal drugs he fuelled the fire of warfare between rival drug dealers. His money might well have supplied them with the money to purchase weapons and given them the ability to make the lives of innocent people

thoroughly miserable. Can be categorically state that the dealer he bought from did not ever sell to under-18s and is not connected, in any way, to those who protect their trade with violence? KAREN DIMMOCK Stourbridge, West Midlands

Long odds for lottery gamblers

Sir. I never cease to be amazed at how ignorant the general public seem to be on the risks involved in gambling. David Spanier, in his Gambling column (7 August), refers to a leaflet now available in casinos entitled "The Risks of the Game", gaming's equivalent of a (financial) health

warning. I suggest that providing information and education about gambling should go further. It should be taught in schools as part of the maths curriculum. Gambling is, after all, entwined with probability theory. Schools offer education on sex and drugs, so educating pupils about gambling would be a useful addition to their preparation for life.

After all, the whole country is starting to resemble a vast casino, with the general population bombarded from all directions with opportunities to gamble at horrifically unrealistic odds. How many of your lottery-ticket-buying readers appreciate, for example, that if they bought £100 worth of tickets a week, they could expect to pick up a jackpot once every 2,700 years?

NIC SZEREMETA General Secretary European Poker Players' Association Torquay, Devon



'Endearing but villainous animals': the Boston raccoon

'Mythical' raccoon spotted in Boston

Sir: Mary Dejevsky says of raccoons: "these endearing out villainous animals are just another component of the American myth . . . the truth is that they do not exist." ("The great suburban sinner who has gone to ground", 4 August).

I have never yet photographed a unicorn successfully, but Ms Dejevsky may like to see this photograph of the "mythical" raccoon taken from a second-floor window in Monument Square, Charlestown, Boston, Massachusetts, at 7.30am on the morning of 15 July this year. He was seated on an old fire escape which stops at first-floor level, some 12 feet above the ground.

I wonder if any reader can advise me on the best time of day to see a unicorn? LIZ FINCH Liverpool

Othello: educated gentleman of any colour

Sir: Why do we accept the assertion that "not white" = "black" ("Can it be wrong to 'black up' for Othello?", 7 August)? Othello was a Moor: strictly, a person of Berber and Arab descent; but a word more loosely used at the time of Shakespeare to indicate any persons of North African or Islamic origin. He may indeed have had black ancestry (the trans-Saharan slave trade flourished for thousands of years and is rumoured to continue to this day) but this is not necessary. All that is certain from the text is that he was darker-skinned than 16th-century Venetians, to whom "black" meant anything swarthier than themselves.

Far more important than his colour s Othello's cultural background, from military Islamic society strongly influenced by an ancient and sophisticated Persian culture, and with trading contacts with India and China. It is unlikely he would have reached the rank of general in his own country, let alone Venice, without education in science and the arts. Arab culture saw no incompatibility between a soldier's profession and an appreciation of literature and poetry.

accomplishments, hence those poetic and storytelling skills which captivated Desdemona. Yet this sophisticated gentleman is too often portrayed as an unpolished simpleton played upon by the cunning Venetian. Cast a man of any colour as Othello but, please, let us see a more imaginative interpretation than theatrical tradition has afforded us. DEBORAH TOMPKINSON Maidenhead, Berkshire

Sir: Film and television particularly have made us used to seeing the "real thing", but this insistent realism may incur its own losses. Some of the greatest and most memorable performances in the recent past have been big make-up jobs: for me Laurence Olivier's Othelio, Charles Laughton's Quasimodo, Alec Guinness's Fagin, and (best of all.

perhaps) John Hurt's Elephant Man. Real equality may find it perfectly acceptable to portray physical characteristics not possessed by the performer. Political correctness may be a deadly brake on creativity. IAN FLINTOFF London SW6

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail; letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge annublished letters.

They were essential, social

Happiness is a quiet week in Ulster

mon charges levelled at journalists covering northern Ireland is that they rarely focus on the positive. that they only want to report bloodshed and violence. Well, it has been sunny all week in Belfast. While the local news carried pictures of storms and severe flooding across the south of Ireland and England, these stopped dead at Ulster, leaving the people of the province basking in glorious There were other reasons to

be cheerful: on Thursday the supergroup U2 announced that they were to play a massive gig in Belfast. a piece of news described by one newspaper as one of the best the city has received in a very long time. We're very excited about it. I don't think there's been a big outdoor concert in Belfast like this ever," said U2's manager Paul McGuinness. Compensation indeed for the news yesterday that the city had lost out on its bid to host the next Eurovision Song Contest.
There was jubilation in the

world of business, when two large foreign companies announced investment worth almost £7m in Belfast and Newtownards, with the promise of a significant number of new jobs. And then there was politics. Last week saw the dozing monster that is the talks process once again lum-

ber slowly and warily into life. This was the week that Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met with the Secretary of State Mo Mowlam, for the first time since before the previous ceasefire was broken in January 1996. Although the meeting was billed as preliminary and largely symbolic, it lasted well over its predicted time

The weather's been sunny in Northern Ireland, and

despite some storm clouds on the horizon, a cautious optimism is in

span and ended with the promise of further talks. Sig-promise of further talks. Dr nificantly, perhaps, Dr Mowlam said afterwards that both sides had acknowledged the need to change a bit".

the air, says

Jojo Moyes

There was widespread acclaim for an agreement by Ulster Unionist Ken Maginnis and Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness to take part in a face-to-face televised debate next week, the first such meeting since before the previous ceasefire. Media commentator Roy Greenslade described it on BBC Radio Ulster as "the thinnest of bridges but he ertheless a cause for optimism.

Predictably, perhaps, the Reverend Ian Paisley was critical of the decision, saying that unionists should not speak to the IRA until they were disarmed. But there was general support for the move, even among unionists, who said he should attend - even if only to ensure the Republican view did not go unchallenged. There

was also concern about height-ening splits within the Unionist community – a worry not alleviated by Mr Paisley's charge that Mr Maginnis's decision signalled "the beginning of the end for the Ulster

Unionist Party".

"We want Paisley in the talks," said one "lifelong unionist", sunning herself outside Belfast's City Hall. "His mandate is to represent up If he date is to represent us. If he stays outside, we'll end up being left behind."

Indeed, Mr Paisley's insis-Indeed, Mr Paisley's insistence on staying outside the talks process appeared to be out of step with much popular feeling. The host of Radio Ulster's Talkback programme, a forum for all shades of caller printed on Thursday opinion, noted on Thursday that the endless negative preoccupation with sectarianism could be dispiriting. He sounded positively resigned shortly afterwards when one caller chose to rant about marches. "Is there no way we can move this thing on?" he

asked plaintively. But there were causes for optimism, too. Tensions over today's planned Apprentice Boys parades were eased when, following a police edict, Orangemen agreed to re-route some of the smaller "feeder marches" that lead into the main parade around Londonderry's walls. Although disappointed by the police decision, rs stressed that they wanted the marches to pass off peacefully and agreed to stay within the confines of the law. By yesterday afternoon, their protests had been confined to the handing in of a letter, and, of course, a

protest march. The Irish News was among those to pick up on the good mood. It noted yesterday that after last month's scenes at the

Monda am ₃.30 - 9-3 Business as (un)usual: shopping in Londonderry yesterday city centre, which was yesterday

Garvaghy Road, it had seemed inevitable that the rest of the summer would witness "a long and bloody series of confrontations across northern Ireland". Instead, it said, an "unexpected outbreak of common sense" had heartened those hoping for a more lasting peace.

nd there were other, smaller moves towards Conciliation. Earlier this week, Londonderry's SDLP Mayor, Martin Bradley, helped launch a pageant organised by Apprentice Boys governor, Alistair Simpson, at the organisation's headquarters. Mr Simpson spoke of his delight at welcoming the mayor, the first nationalist mayor ever to attend such an event, saying after-wards: "It is something that I never dreamt of - that we would have this type of thing here."

Martyn Lewis, the newscaster who once famously complained that there should be more good news, might have enjoyed himself here last week.

Even the potential loss of John Hume from the peace process to the Irish presidency was largely overshadowed by the possibilities for amusement afforded by the prospect of the singer Dana as his opponent. These may be small steps in one short week, but the knockon effects are crucial. If the ceasefire, no matter how precarious, has one important consequence, it is in helping rebuild the confidence of s and industrial base. Belfast suffers some of the worst unemployment in Europe, with all the resulting economic and social problems,

need for further investment. Colin Anderson, president of Northern Ireland's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. which represents more than 3,000 businesses, said yesterday that that with this in mind, the business community had viewed the week's events with "cautious optimism". "We have not experienced the euphoria

and no one would dispute the

that occasioned the last ceasefire so we want to wait and see but we're hopeful that it's

here to stay," he said.
Mr Anderson pointed out that business can be an important unifying influence. The Chamber of Commerce, he said, has been meeting with political leaders in an attempt to push the province's economy further up the political agenda. A key factor in ensuring a lasting peace was to put money in people's pockets: "Then they see life isn't so bad, and they're not as likely to get involved in violent activities.

As he spoke, Economy Minister Adam Ingram was in the United States accompanied by Ulster Unionist Jeffrey Donaldson and the SDLP's Mark Durkan in a joint attempt to woo foreign investors. Mr Anderson said that despite the end of the previous ceasefire. the underlying trend for northern Ireland was still one of growth. This appeared to be borne out by a stroll around the

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

hustling with shoppers. The one thing that builds people's confidence is the lack of bombs," said a spokes-woman for the group Families Against Intimidation, "People like to know they can come into the city centre and feel safe." There are other, perhaps subconscious, factors that contribute to that confidence: the unsettling noise of overhead security forces helicopters, so often omnipresent, was absent. And in an hour, only armoured vehicle passed by.

One of the things least often reported about Belfast is its beauty, and friendliness. The south of the city is rarely affected by trouble, and much of the local countryside is stunning. Mr Anderson describes it as "the best kept economic as and tourism secret in Europe". Should the ceasefire continue, there is little to stop it becoming a major tourist destination.

Tourism is often the litmus paper of confidence in the

province. Yesterday a survey of 89 of Belfast's hoteliers revealed that 79 per cent believed the success of the peace process was the most crucial factor in developing their business. Their confidence is not any midesurand dence is not yet widespread, however. Equal numbers (27 per cent) described themselves as pessimistic about the future as said they were optimistic. This is unsurprising. Even the uninitiated can appreciate that a week is a long time in Ulster politics, and for all the good signs during the last week, there was plenty that could he put forward to dampen any prematurely high spirits.

Pesterday morning, the residents of Newtownbutler, the site of a proposed march by the loyalist posed march by the loyanst Royal Black Preceptory today, were calling on "nationalists throughout Ireland to come along and support the beleagured residents in their time of need", if attempts were made to force the march made to force the march through. They were planning to rally last night at the village RUC station. The Belfast Telegraph noted that there was the prospect of serious trouble unless the situation can be

defused". The same morning, 1,000 Protestants marched through Londonderry, protesting about their "right to march". Both had the potential to heighten tensions over the weekend. The Parades Commission was said to be keeping a close watch. Meanwhile, police noted that levels of so-called punishment attacks were still high. Claims from the family of a shooting victim that the gunmen had described themselves as Republicans also tempered some of the optimism that the police had allowed themselves since the latest ceasefire was announced.

In what appeared to be a deliberate attempt at provocation, two hoax devices were delivered to the offices of Unionist councillors last week. An Orange hall outside Newry was damaged in an arson attack. And yesterday homes were evacuated when a hoax bomb was detonated in Strabane. and another incendiary device was defused in South Belfast. It said one RUC source. much too early to draw any conclusions about the ceasefire.

A few clouds were gathering overhead vesterday evening. signifying a possible end to the balmy weather. But across the city, people in Belfast appeared to be looking for the good.
"Cautious optimism" was still
in place that the weekend's planned parades would pass without violence, prompting the question: could one week's good news be a building block for the province's future?



karen krizanov

of normal people take secret delight in seeing the words, "You're all right, really," in print. If it's in print, it

must be true. This scares me. I'm suspicious of books like The Celestine Prophecy, a wonky bestseller which makes you want to ask the author, "What colour is the sky in your world?" Merely insisting that Life is Beautiful turns self-help into the fuzzy-thinker's crutch, tossed aside when

you get better.

Hard-core self-help, however, is honourable. The best come with aggressive titles like Toilet Training Your Inner Child, I'm Okay, You're Going To Herl and Losing Weight By Eating Less And Exercising More. That's why I'm ripping through Emotional Blackmail by Dr Susan Forward with Donna Frazier (Bantam Press, £15.99). The masterful copywriting on its dustjacket implores.
"Do [important people in your life] shower you with approval when you give in to them and take it away when you

Soon you're weeping, "Yes! Yes!" and leaning against the cash till, book and credit card in hand. Although it baits browsers with the same dirty tricks that Cosmopolitan uses (hot cover lines on the outside, striving for mediocrity on the inside), EB delivers the goods. It's

touchy-feely American analysis-u-like. The doctor's favourite example of a manipulative phrase is, "Gee, I wish

elf-help books are comedy. It's not that they don't do their job. Lots rather than, "Could you please open the

Nice try. In my house, whining works best. "I'm dying here. Did you have an affair with a double-glazing salesmen or is this a terrarium? When did you move the sofa and the TV into the oven?"

Dr Forward is no slouch. She's authored two best-selling milestones in self-help - Toxic Parents and my personal favourite, Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them. (I want to write a rip-off called Men Who Hate Women Who Hate Them More.)

Emotional Blackmail has helped me already. The other night, two dear but squiffy friends begged me to come and party with them. "If you don't come over," one pleaded, "I'll commit suicide." On page 39, Dr Forward calls suicide threats "The Ultimate Self-Punishment". Taking a tip from page 239 (Strategy No 4: Using Humor), I quipped, "Oh? What kind of flowers should I send?" Thanks to Dr Forward, I won. The police are still searching for my friend but only a manipulated per-

son would feel guilty about that. Taking a step back from feeling righteous, I re-read Forward's checklisted responses to emotional blackmail. In effect, defence phrases such as, "I'm sure that's what you believe" arc merely manipulation lobbed back.
It's like saying, "I'm sorry you got angry when I called you lard-ass."
Apologising for their feelings, you're

actually apologising for nothing.

Concerning "the silent treatment",
her last advice is to "Let some things
slide". This reminds me of my French for Travellers phrase book which had "STOP OR I'LL SCREAM" in phonetic French. With Emotional Blackmail, thousands of shook-up people will also be feverishly thumbing its pages, trying to find the right thing to say at the right time. My advice? Let everything slide including your personal hygiene, housework and coming home at night. That's what I think.

Somebody said that Stella Tennant was a supermodel for two very good reasons other than being thin and beautiful. Both of her names are names of lager. Hence, if my mother had called me Bud, Miller, Coors or Rolling Rock, I too would be a supermodel who had to beat men off with a bat.

We are jealous of beauty. We women hate other women who have that ineffable ocomph. In the original script for the movie The Long Kiss Goodnight, the heroine is described as "effortlessly beautiful". No matter what she does, she's gorgeous. This irked me so much I couldn't finish the script. Excuse me? Effortless beauty? Never in anyone

over the age of 12. Yet here is Elizabeth Hurley doing just that. I hate to say it but she is mar-vellous in the new Pathé film, Austin Powers - International Man Of Mystery. Released in September, this is the best

comedy I've seen since Airplane! Liz plays the sex bomb Bond girl with M Appeal to Mike Myers' Austin Powers. He's a cryogenically frozen secret agent/photographer/rock star from the Sixties, thawed out to battle

Dr Evil (also played by Myers). It's fast company for Liz but she lets the plethora of breast jokes do the work for her. I'll forgive the massively air-brushed Estée Lauder commercials and her overblown, blowfish lips. In Austin Powers, she is, if not redeemed, made.

I hated her even more when she was going on recently about her cursed "boy's bum". In her youth, she had to stuff her jeans with tissues to get "a curve". This girl loves fry-ups. Bacon sarnies are her best friends, next to Hollywood bigwigs. This is a gorgeous woman who wears nothing but jeans and T-shirts around the house and, famously.

到的情况

Liz, can you say "Cooper's Droop" five times fast? Who repealed the law of gravity around your chest?

The truth is, Liz Hurley is playing at

effortless beauty. Just wait until her chain smoking catches up with her. She'll look like a rucksack with eyes. Or maybe not. In Scalpel, er. Los:

Angeles, California, plastic surgery is a new religion. A talented surgeon can wipe away all traces of sin from your skin. You'll look and feel years young And, like those old medieval indugences, it'll only cost a lot.

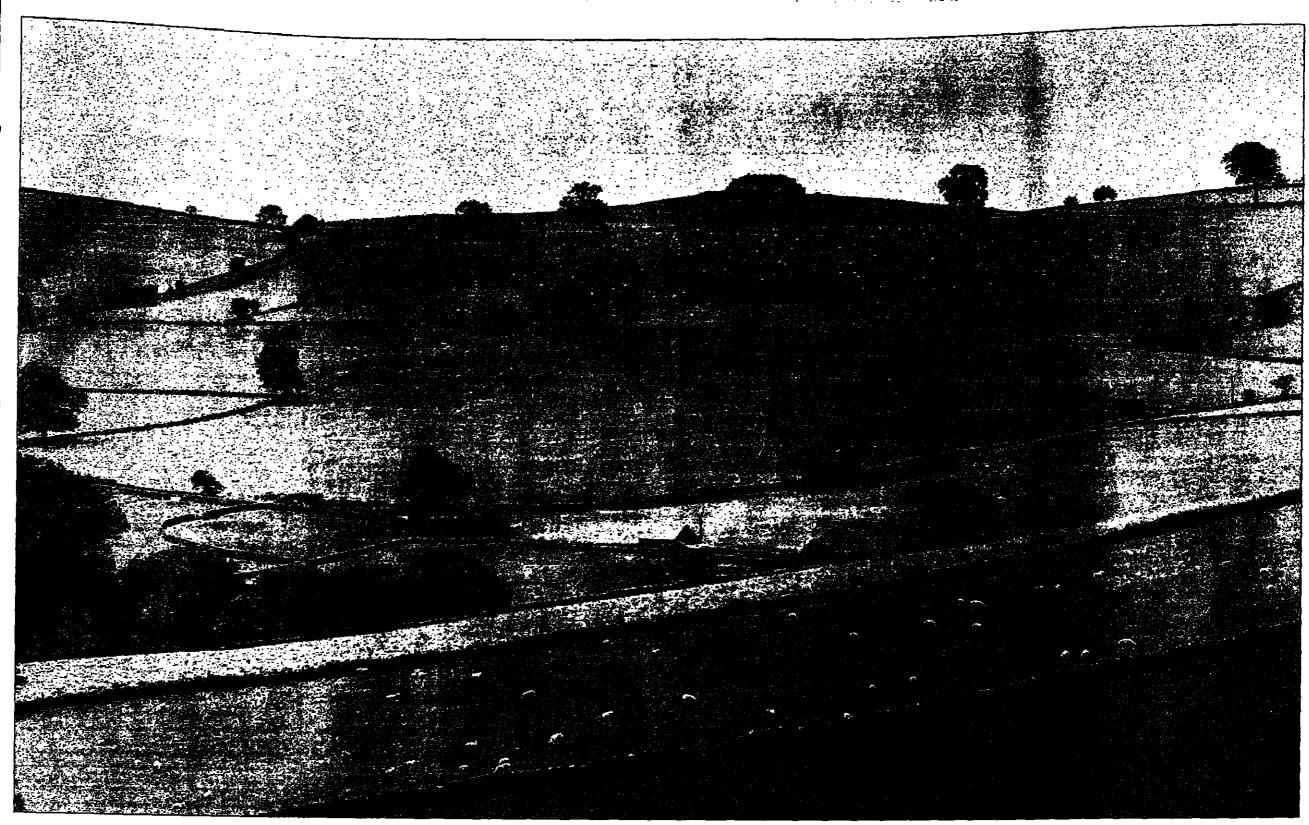


IMAGE OF A scene of complete serenity. Or is it? The rolling hills and cosy little farmhouses of Dovedale in Derbyshire belie the fact that more tourists in pursuit of peace and quiet will visit this beauty spot this year than ever THE WEEK before. Photograph by Brian Harris at 1/500th at f5.6 on 300mm using 160 ASA film. For a copy of this picture, for £15, phone 0171 293 2534

thelongweekend

WORDS OF THE WEEK Fay Weldon: I see God as the Author of Answers to the the Universe ... God the writer. "In the beginning was the word ..." See it literally. The word on the page, the idea confined and controllable, shared by our meaning of creation common understanding ... To those who are creative, creation seems as nothing, You make something where nothing was Five leading writers from a variety of before: easy peasey. You think it up. The greater the gap between nothing and that religious and cultural backgrounds, including something is how you judge the quality

> in a series of Prom interval talks heat. They pretend to drown in shallow water. They make as if to swim in mud. They say the opposite of what they mean. Everybody laughing, everybody trying to get a piece of the dog flesh. Mirth and ferocity interchangeable.

Fay Weldon, right, answer questions of faith

of creation. A good book floats free, a

had book bumps along on the ground.

The gap between a world without Shake-

speare's plays and the world with them

is pretty big. The gap between non-exis-

tence and the entire universe. God's

Howard Jacobson: There is a clown,

sacred to the Sioux Indian people, whose

business it is to be his own contradiction.

his own upside-down shadow, a refuta-

tion of all reason, a man who says the

opposite to what he means, and does the

opposite to what it is usual and practi-

cable to do. Like all clowns he is divided

down the middle, the hair on the right

side of his head shaved, the hair on the

left hanging long. He is called a heyoka,

But in order to perform in a heyoka

or contrary clown.

doing, is of course overwhelming."

When the ceremony was over, everybody felt a great deal better, for it had been a day of fun. They were better able now to see the greenness of the world, the wideness of the sacred day, the colours of the earth, and to set these in their minds. Does art have any higher aim than that? Does religion? To revivify the senses, to reconfirm belief in the sacredness of existence, to restore glory to the earth ... and to set these wonders in the mind of all who behold them.

ceremony it is not enough merely to wish to do so. In order to joke, you need to Hanif Kureishi: Fundamentalism provides have dreamed; in order to cause laughsecurity. For the fundamentalist, as for ter you need to have experienced terror. If you want to be a Sioux comedian, you all reactionaries, everything has been have first to be a visionary. A dog is killed, decided. Truth has been agreed and nothing must change. For serene liberits neck broken, its carcass offered to the als, on the other hand, the consolations thunder gods before being flung into boilof knowing seem less satisfying than the ing water. While the dog boils the clowns perform their tricks, carrying bows that pleasures of puzzlement, and of wanting are too long to bend and arrows that are to discover for oneself. But the feeling that one cannot know everything, that too crooked to fly. They shiver in the

there will always be maddening and live questions about who one is and how it is possible to make a life with other people who don't accept one, can be devastating. Perhaps it is only so long that one can live with that kind of puzzlement. Rationalists have always underestimated the need people have for belief. Enlightenment values don't provide spiritual comfort or community or solidarity. Islam could do this in a country that was supposed to be home but which could, from day to day, seem alien.

Muslim fundamentalism has always seemed to me to be profoundly wrong, overly restrictive and frequently cruel. But there are reasons for its revival that are comprehensible. It is this that has made me want to look at it not only in terms of ideas, but in stories, in character, in terms of what people do ... Perhaps the greatest book of all, and certainly one of the most pleasurable, The One Thousand and One Nights, is written in Arabic. This creativity, the making of something which didn't exist before, the vigour and stretch of a living imagination, is a human affirmation of another kind, and a necessary and important form of



self-examination. Without it our humanity is diminished.

Karen Armstrong: We all know the power of poetry. The sound, rhythm and allusive connotations of the words chosen by a poet can take language into a new dimension; poetic language can enter us deeply, reaching a level that is more fundamental than the cerebral; it can lift us momentarily beyond ourselves. Theology should work in the same way. It cannot be a mere statement of fact; it must touch us emotionally and give us intimations of transcendence. The first Muslims were often converted not so much by the message of the Koran as by the extraordinary beauty of the text, which cannot come across in an English translation. Thus Omar had been fiercely critical of Mohammed until he heard the Koran recited aloud. The poetry reached through his reserves of intellectual resistance to a core of receptivity that he had heen unaware of. We seem to have lost this sense of scripture and God-talk and have become obsessed with the historicity, rationality and literal meaning of theology. As our Western modernity has spread to other parts of the globe, Jews,

Christians and Muslims have all become worried about the integrity of their scriptures in a new way. Unless and until we recover a sense of the language of religion as dogmatic, in the Greek sense, our view of religious truth will be impoverished and we will deny ourselves an important means of discovering that transcendence which human beings are compelled to seek.

Michèle Roberts: The old mother goddesses, officially cast out by the masculine religion of Christianity with its drama of Father and Son, survived in pagan practices, in the folklore and heresics that have always flourished at the fringes. The female body, so feared and repressed, returns to haunt and dazzle us in the shapes of visionaries and visions - the Virgin Mary, apparently increasingly making berself visible all over the world in our own day, seems to represent, to those who see her or are moved by reports of her presence, Godness itself. God is presented as female form.

There is clearly a tremendous hunger among people to have bodily experiences of God: why else do miraculous statues bleed and weep? Here are those physical processes shunned by the Churches - menstruation, lactation - newly made numinous and holy. The reality of these miraculous events and visions is a psychic one. People produce and project their own images, individually and communally. God is worshipped through images of the physical. God is found through images of the physical. God is not any longer simply Him Up There. God has become part of us.

'Flesh Made Word' can be heard during the Proms tomorrow on BBC Radio 3.

INSIDE

Julia Kaminski meets **Geraldine James**

Travel & outdoors

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e go kite flying in the summer. The weather is nearly always perfect: blustery winds, scudding clouds, squalis of horizontal rain - the very thing for soaring birds and kite flyers.

Now and again we make a kite. Of course one can buy a kite but we prefer to make our own. The ones we make are large, slow and heavy, and resemble monstrous stealths sliding across the sky. In strong winds they are difficult to fly, prone to spectacular crashes and limb wrenching surges of power. In these conditions they might, at best, last a few days, and survive a dozen nosedives and cartwheels, before the sticks splinter, the seams tear, and the joints spring loose.

Cattle and walkers on the Common may have seen our latest monster flying high. You can't buy a Flying Manta but this is how to make one. It shouldn't take more than an hour.

Paradoxically, because the materials are so heavy, it has to be quite large to fly. Twelve and a half square foot of wing area is about the minimum viable size for summer stealths.

For the wing fabric you will need a scrap of damp-proof membrane (which you can buy from a builders' merchant), four long bamboo bean sticks, a roll of parcel tape, a roll of carpet tape (the reinforced kind), a key ring and a wire coat hanger. To cut and twist the wire you will want a pair of pliers, and unless you have teeth like a ferret, you will need a knife to cut through the tape. An unexpected ingredient is the spring from a derelict clothes peg.

Using the wire from the coathanger, fashion the twisted inserts illustrated (fig 1). Fit them in the wide end of each stick: the Z shaped one goes into the centre stick, and the two loops fit in the ends of the outer sticks. Bind some parcel tape round the ends to prevent them splitting, and secure the inserts by knotting string to them and taping the ends of the string to the bamboo.

Fit the three sticks together. The Zshaped wire is inserted through the wire loops in the outer two sticks, and secures them. Lay the sticks in position on top of the plastic sheet and cut the sheet to size (fig 2). Tape the edges of the sheet to the two outside sticks. Use the carpet tape at the point, at the end of each stick, and at one or two intermediate stations between.

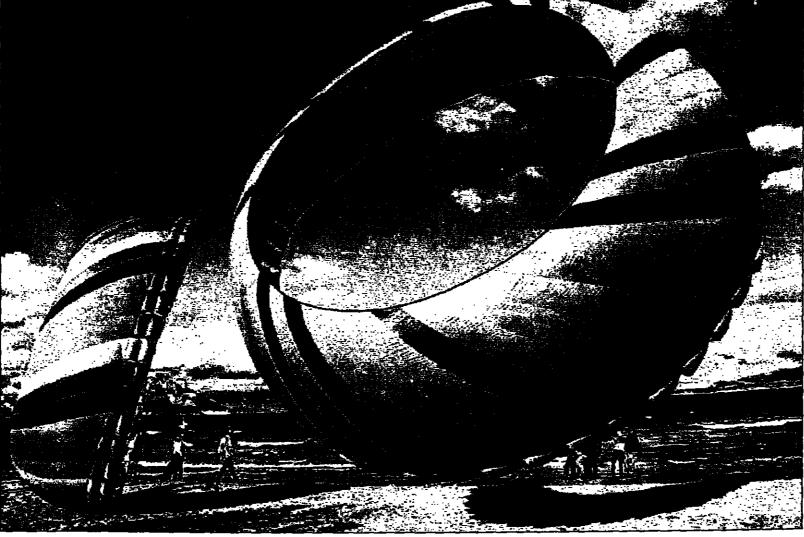
Make the anchorage wires for the cross stick (fig 3), and tape them to the side sticks, equidistant from the point. When the kite is laid flat, the cross stick should be about two inches short of a fit. In the air, the wings sweep upwards and hold the stick in position.

Now fit the harness strings. These comprise a centre loop which is fastened to the point, and runs to the very end of the centre stick, and one intermediate string, that passes through the wing and is tied to the centre stick, more or less at its centre.

Before fastening the rear end of the centre loop, thread the string through the barrel of the clothes peg spring. I have illustrated a round turn and two half hitches which is suitable for tying

the ends of the string.

Knot the intermediate string to the middle of the centre stick, and pull it



Jain altitude with attitu

wing, and slip the string through. With the kite upside down on the floor, pull the centre loop taut, and fasten the spring which (you will notice) slides freely along the centre loop. This gives you the adjustment facility you need to control lift.

The kite string is fastened to the barcentre loop determines lift. This is back and the kite lurches backwards, off a few feet.

INTERMEDIATE STRING

But if moving the bishop

make progress? If this were

a lesser composer's work,

with 1.Rxc6+ dxc6 2.Bxc6,

but Kasparyan would not

So what about trying to

get the bishop out in the

is 2.Bxd7+ and the rook

troublesome check from

the bishop on d4. Again.

however. Black has an

ingenious defence; after 1.Rd2 he plays 1...Rxb5!

2.Bxd7+ Kc7 and the

also puts paid to that

looks promising: the threat

other direction? 1.Rd2

do anything so crude.

Kc7 to come.

Black draws easily with 2...Rb8+ 3.Ka7 Bd4+ with

the answer might begin

out of the way doesn't work, how is White to

tight. Make a small incision in the too far forwards, and there is insufficient lift. To secure the spring, take a single hitch round one of its arms as illustrated (fig 6). Fix a shackle or a intermediate string to the barrel of the substantial key ring on the spring as a fixing point for the kite string.

The tail should be long, and have considerable windage; its drag helps keep the kite head to wind. Make the tail from offcuts of the plastic sheet, rel of the spring, and its position on the and make it longer than you think necessary. Cut the tail to length when you found by experimentation. Too far first fly the kite: ie if it doesn't lift, snip

CENTRE STICK

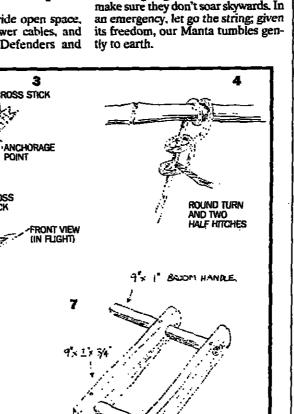
Secure all the side seams with parcel tape. At close quarters it looks very amateurish, but at 20,000 feet it doesn't notice.

I made the winder from two 9-inch lengths of 2 x 3/4 inch pine, and two 9inch lengths of broom handle. (fig 9). You will need tough string to hold this kite: ordinary kite thread will snap. Polypropylene baler twine or garden string is ideal.

Fly the kite in a wide open space. miles away from power cables, and thunder clouds. If Defenders and

INTERMEDIATE

Troopers, and four wheel drive Subarus trundle across the turf to get a clearer view, wave them away. Gentle as a lamb in soft winds, in rough weather the Manta is an unpredictable and short tempered beast, prone to violent changes of altitude. It might take a sudden dislike to them, and dent their lids. And grapple tight to any child weighing less than 11 stone to make sure they don't soar skywards. In



Games people play

Pandora Melly talks to the man who beat the man who was the father of the South London ping-peng champion.

Craigie Aitchison RA, 70, painter

I used to play ping-pong in the nursery at home with my brother, and if we did anything wrong during the day, we weren't allowed to play. If you dropped your napkin, that was just one of the things that mattered, or if you didn't eat the fat at lunch. It wasn't my parents, it was the people who looked after us. The worst one was the governess. worst one was the governess.

worst one was the governess.

Ping-pong was taken very seriously. I expect I usually lost, because I remember banging the table in a temper. Later I player with the painter Euan Uglow. We used to play the best of three, but if Euan lost, he made me play the best of five, so there were huge rows and banging the table. I liked playing with Euan, because he hated losing.

I was always told that I had a cheat's serve, because you re meant to do it sideways. It doesn't say so in the rules, but I was accused of serving in a cheating way and there were rows over that. I'd drop the ball on the table, and hit it across. Are you meant to have it up in the air or something first?

My claim to fame in this area is that I beat the father of the South London ping-pong champion. I never let Euan forget that. It doesn't mean a thing really, because the father was doing the decorating here. I played him and beat him, but it wasn't like beating the South London champion.

I like ping-pong because it's not at all sporty and you don't have to be dressed up for it. Unfortunately I no longer have the table. I took it to Italy, and we had it outside, but it got all wet and fell to hits. I've always meant to get another one.

Premonitions

On Paul McKenna's appalling Paranormal World on television the other week, they showed a chap in Nevada who has been doing research into precognition. Subjects are wired up to a device that gauges emotional reaction by measuring electrical activity in the skin, then they are shown randomly selected photographs, some of which are idyllic and pastoral and the others are so filthy that they had to blot out the rude bits on our screens. Anyway, what the results claim to show is that subjects reacted to the emotionally charged pictures even before they had been selected. The experiments were cited as evidence of precognition.

This, of course, merely adds a human dimension to the celebrated work of the parapsychologist R L Morris who, in 1967, showed that if you put three goldfish in a tank, then use a random number generator to decide which one to fish out, there is a tendency for the about-to-be-caught goldfish to swim about a bit more frantically before its number

We mention all this only because of some work we have been doing in our newspaper database. Since the murder of Gianni Versace, we have been monitoring occurrences in the press of the word "frock". We felt that it had come into relative prominence since his death, and were wondering whether this was purely temporary or the start of a new linguistic vogue. Since we needed a base level for purposes of comparison, we monitored the occurrences of "frock" over each of the past few months, here are the monthly totals since December:

104 162 135

Throughout 1996, frocks had been running at about 120 a month, and as these figures show, that rate was maintained in January. But the next three months showed a marked decline, followed by sudden and dramatic rises in May and June. The June 1997 figure is, in fact, the highest ever recorded for a calender month. And if we were to plot these figures on a graph, it would look just like the readout from the device used on the Paul McKenna show. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that precognition is an exact science - with hindsight.

The games page is edited by William Hartston

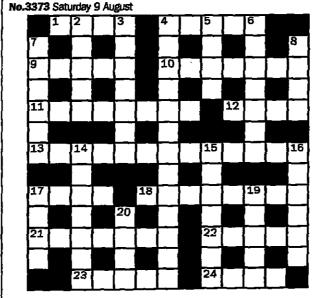
Chess William Hartston



The endgame study composer Genrich Kasparyan, who died last year, was one of the strongest players of all problemists. (Many very strong players have composed the occasional tine problem, but few topclass problemists have had much of a playing career.) Perhaps this is why so many of his compositions have that light touch that appeals to players as well as purists. The position above is a good example. It is White to play and win.

At first glance, it looks simple: get the bishop out of the way and promote the pawn to a queen next move. But things are not so simple.

After the natural 1.Bg6 (or 1.Bh5) Black plays ...Rb8+ 2.Ka7 Bd4+. Now 3.b6 is forced, when 3...Bxb6+ 4.Ka6 looks, and is, good for White. But Black plays instead 3...Rxh6! and after 4.e8Q+ Kc7 the threat of Rb8+ guarantees Black a draw. The white queen has no good square from which to give check.



threat of mate on a5 saves **ACROSS** the game for him. Finally, 1.Bxd7+ Kxd7 2.bxc6+ looks tempting, but fails against 2...Rxc6!

So what's the answer? The first idea was correct, but you have to pick the right square for the bishop. Try 1.Bf7! Rb8+ 2.Ka7 Bd4+ 3.b6. Now after 3...Rxb6 4.e8Q+ Kc7 White plays 5.Ra2! (where the rook is now protected by the bishop) Rb8+ 6.Ka6 Rh6+ 7.Ka5 and

3.Rxc6 Kxe7 with a draw.

The real point of the study, however, is seen after 3...Bxb6+ 4.Ka6 Bd8! Black threatens mate, but White gets there first with 5.Rxc6+! dxc6 6.Be6+ Kc7 7 e8=N mate! Bravo.

Concise crossword

Seven days (4) County (5) 9 Composition (5) 10 Whitewash (5-2) 11 Additional work (8)

12 Way out (4)
13 Daringly (13)
17 Of great size (4)
18 Australian state (8)
21 Windpipe (7)
22 Oxford college (5)
23 Statebact light (5) 23 Stretched tight (5) 24 Prophet (4)

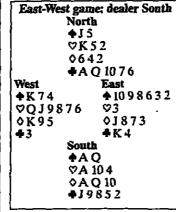
Follow (5) Rare gas (7) Expel from church (13) Rescue (4) Copies (7) City of Romeo and Julie

Precise location (4) Tramp (7) Choices (7) 16 Annually (6) 17 Detest (4) Elevate (5) 20 Part of leg (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crassword:

ACROSS: 1 Chateau, 5 Wring (Shattering), 8 Ratio, 9 Jericho, 10 Listens, 11 Idyll, 12 Bleach, 14 Agreed, 17 Coypu, 19 Mongrel, 22 Morocco, 23 Views, 24 Sisal, 25 Holster. DOWN: 1 Carol, 2 Artiste, 3 Evoke, 4 Unjust, 5 Working, 6 Itchy, 7 Growled, 12 Becomes, 13 Council, 15 Earnest, 16 Smooth, 18 Yards, 20 Novel, 21 Lover.

Bridge Alan Hiron



South spotted the danger that might have upset his contract of Three No-trumps on this deal and made an effort to bypass it. However, he did not choose the right line of play and still went

down. Can you spot his mistake? South opened One No-trump (16-18 points) and West

overcalled with Two Hearts. He had a lucky escape when North

Literary confusion: Ghastly fat whores jog nasty

hero

famous author and the title of his or her perhaps most celebrated work. And all you have to do to find them is unjumble the letters in the above sentence.

Lest we mislead, we should like to make it clear that apart from having the same letters, there is no intended connection between

raised his partner to game instead of doubling and taking a

substantial penalty. West led ♥Q against 3NT and, not wanting to give East the lead if it could possibly be avoided, declarer won in dummy and played the ace and another club, rejecting the finesse. He did not mind West getting in and now had the extra chance of dropping the king of clubs. East won the second club, however, and switched to spades. The finesse lost. West cleared the suit, and now South could not come to more than eight tricks.

South was quite right to be apprehensive of a spade lead from East, but he missed a neat play. It is perfectly all right indeed, a good idea - to cash the ace of clubs, but when the king does not fall, declarer should finesse the queen of diamonds. West may well be able to win, but now any continuation gives South plenty of time to establish and cash nine tricks,

Perplexity the answer and the meaning of the sentence itself.

Century Dictionary will be We are looking for the name of a awarded to the sender of the first

correct answer we open on 21 August. Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

Answers and the winner's name of the Perplexity competition that appeared on 26 July are held over until next week

A prize of the Chambers 21st

Backgammon Chris Bray

Those seeking to study the history of backgammon are confronted with a difficult problem. There is no definitive history of the game, which can trace its antecedents back some 5,000 years. The very first backgammon book of the modern era, appropriately entitled The Backgammon Book by Jacoby & Crawford (ISBN 0 14046260 0) does have a brief but excellent history of the game as its first section. The other useful reference book is H J R Murray's A History of Board Games other than Chess which notes that the first recorded use of the word backgammon was in 1645.

The Backgammon Book traces the game from its murky origins in Mesopotamia, through the Egyptian Pharaohs, the Greeks - the tedium of the siege of Troy was lightened by playing an early form of the game - and the Romans. The Emperor Claudius is said to have written a book on the game!

The game's route into Europe is obscured by time although the Roman Empire obviously played some part. It is mentioned in old English glossaries of the eighth and ninth centuries but its great popularity apparently dates from the Crusades whereafter it became known as Tables. A backgammon board was

found on the wreck of the Mary Rose. Different versions of the game can still be found around the world varying from the US Navy's Acey-Deucey to Greece's Tavli. The modern version of the game gained new life and immense popularity in the 1920s when some enterprising gamesman in one of the New York clubs came up with the idea of the doubling cube. The first laws of the game were drafted in 1931 at the New York Racquet & Tennis Club.

The Backgammon Book also contains some excellent photographs and prints of early artefacts and boards and more recent paintings from European archives. Like many backgammon books of the early 1970s the book is currently out of print but it is well worth checking your local second-hand bookshop for a copy, and you can occasionally find a copy in a public library.

On a more modern note, Malcolm Pein of Chess & Bridge Ltd. informs me that they now stock all versions of Jellyfish and are willing to give demonstrations or to send a demo disk free of charge to anyone who requests it. They can be contacted at 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR. Tel: 0171-

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst ... TURN TO PAGE

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 1997

Late bloomer



Julia Kaminski talks to GERALDINE **JAMES**

ose strides towards me along the street on impossibly long, black-stockinged legs. At least, it looks like Rose, the reformed hooker in Band of Gold - shaggy curls, incywincy skirt, spiky heels - but the woman who offers me a makeshift seat on the pavement ("In the shade, if you don't mind, I can't go near the sun") sounds rather more like Sarah Layton, the awfully nice colonel's daughter in Jewel in the Crown. In fact, Geraldine James is neither Nice Sarah nor Flawed Rose, although she can identify with both. "It's a very short step from Rose to me," she explains over lunch later. "In fact, sometimes I think there's no step at all."

James, in Manchester to film an autumn sequel to the Bradford prostitutes' drama Band of Gold. is taller and skinnier than you'd expect, especially if you're watching the current repeats of Jewel, set in 1940s India, in which her Sarah is a solidly built. plain girl with a strong line in very proper dresses and suppressed sexuality.

"When we were filming Jewel, in the mid-Eighties, it was only 40 years after the setting of the series, and I could sort of feel Sarah across the time gap. So much had happened to women, and here we all were, going 'Yes, Sarah Layton, hey, we're with you-o-o', whereas at the time she felt completely isolated, mad, and wrong, and bad, but she couldn't speak up for herself because she was in that world that said 'Tup! Not a word'. You're female, you don't question things. They think she's being difficult if she doesn't smile and want to play tennis every afternoon."

If there's one thing that James does not share with Sarah Layton, it is diffidence. She talks 20 to the dozen, a breathless stream, without full-stops or commas. "Sarah has flashes of humour, but most of the time that's completely repressed, and it was fascinating to play it. When I saw the repeats, I was startled - I didn't remember that I was so uptight and anally retentive, but I think I based it on Celia Johnson in Brief Encounter."

Did she look like Sarah then? "She was meant

to be spectacularly plain, but I think the make-up person went a little far!"

India, where she also filmed Gandhi, was a rich experience for James. The people were 'absolutely fantastic".

"One waiter in the hotel where we were staying took us all to his mum's for dinner one night. We went to weddings. We went to Simla, which is this extraordinary place up in the mountains, very British, with the Galety Theatre or something like that with all these photos from the Forties of these English people doing plays as if they'd been in Woking."

"But I was very frightened, too," she recalls. "I was very insecure as an actress. There was Sarah in her time, with me, Geraldine, in the Eighties, going 'You're all right', but I was thinking 'I can't do this. I'm no good, I'm hopeless'. Now, 15 years later, I wish I'd had that extra iota of confidence that I now have, so I could have gone, 'I can play

This is a recurring theme: her lack of faith in herself, even now at 46. Why did she continue to act if, even in her thirties, she felt she couldn't do it?

"But I still think I can't do it," she wails. "The only reason I think it less - and this is absolutely, genuinely true - is I'm doing it and I now have a backlog of work. I can feel a little quieter in my soul. And it also matters less than when I was in my thirties. And nobody can tell me I'm not going to be an actress, because I have been an actress. I can go before my maker and say 'I was an actor,' "

eremon Ovis Ba

- this in an emphatic voice, presumably one kept specially for addressing one's maker - and I can say 'I've brought a few videos'.
'I have taken risks in my life, like playing Rose.

I honestly thought when that series came out that I would be laughed out of the country." Fears that she was miscast dogged her at the beginning, in the same way that Sarah had felt out

of place in the world of the Raj.

I thought people would go This is ridiculous, this girl is middle-class, how can she possibly play this creature, who does she think she is? I mean, listen to her'." Scora drips from these words convincingly. "I honestly thought people would think that, and instead they went 'Yeah, gosh,' and so a little bit of me went 'Phew! I've got away with it again'." Surely she doesn't feel like this every time? "I do. I think 'This time I won't be able to do it, this time I'm going to miss the diving board and go off in the shallow end and there won't be any water in it anyway. I'm going to completely

land on my face'. To James, the crucial thing about Band of Gold is that it must be believable, and must not

n unlikely victim of the gov-



glamorise prostitution. The first series divided police opinion in the Bradford area, where it is set, between those who felt it increased public awareness, and those who felt it encouraged kerbcrawling and possibly even tempted young women

into prostitution, believing it to be glamorous. "This programme must be authentic. It isn't Dynasty, it's about life on the streets, and if people can see it and believe us and think 'That's what these women are like,' they may change their attitudes. Many people dismiss and loathe prostitutes, they think they're the scum of the earth. If we can say they're human beings, and understand what may have led them towards this life and be a little less judgemental; and please can

we also talk about the gentlemen who need to use these women's services...

"It has completely changed my own views. I think in some awful way I had a romanticised view of it. I thought it would be easier to play than it is. Within about a week we were wearing these costumes -you have a bit of you that you're selling yourself on, my bit was my legs and my tits [goodness me, that Nice Sarah would never say "tits"], so they had to be fairly well exposed, and that's fine when you're acting, but when they go 'Lunch!' you're still exhibiting yourself and we found that you just get looked at. That was very startling, to realise what it would be like, for me," she emphasises, "not to be in control of how I present myself."

Researching Rose brought James into contact with prostitutes in Bradford's Lumb Lane red-light area where she heard all the gruesome details of

life on the streets. "We see them at home making a cup of tea and saying 'Christ, it's tough out there' and we realise what it would be like to work in those clothes, in winter, getting into hot cars for 10 minutes and getting thrown out again having made 10 quid. stuffing it into your bra and wandering on to the next street corner. Somebody turns up who is deeply repellent physically, and smells, and wants you to do appalling things, and you're so cold you

do it. It ain't a glamorous life by any means. "You are completely vulnerable; if he whips a Geraldine James: 'I honestly thought when "Band of Gold" came out that I would be laughed out of the country'

PHOTOGRAPH: ROB BODMAN / NTIM

knife out... no wonder the girls fear for their lives. They have such low self-esteem. In my experience, almost all of these women have been abused. So they already think of themselves as complete rubbish. The fact that they go off with a man who starts hitting them around somehow fits in with their lives." James is most scathing of the pimps who lure

young schoolgirls into the game. Having a 12-yearold daughter. Eleanor, brings it sharply into focus for her. "That whole pimp thing is so disgusting. They'll seduce very young girls literally by giving them sweets. Buying them nice clothes. Encouraging them, developing their sexuality when they're far too young."

Did it strike a chord when her character Rose discovered, in the second series, that her estranged daughter was a hooker? "I could imagine what it was like for Rose. But I don't relate it to Eleanor very much. I did get very alarmed on one location when we were filming outside a junior school, and somebody said 'This is where pimps will identify their likely candidates, and start working on them.' Now if they're strong, secure children with loving families, then they're not going to be taken in by that - I hope."

Does Eleanor feel insecure, with her mother away so often? "Well, it does get tougher for her as she gets older, because she's more aware. When she was a baby, I didn't work until she was about 15 months old, and by the time I went back to work I was going up the wall. I realised, there's a bit of me that is nourished by acting, which is kept at bay when I'm at home being a mum. It's phenomenal to do both, but I can't choose."

The actress in James was born at boarding school in Berkshire, where she felt miscast. "Very early on there were the girls who were good at singing, at the arts, or mathematics or languages. and I wasn't good at anything. I didn't shine. So I became the clown in order to have an identity and at the age of 13 they put me into acting. I had a fabulous teacher, my headmistress's husband, who taught Shakespeare for A-level, and then I found this person called William Shakespeare and a play called King Lear. The teacher took us to see it at Stratford and I remember Eric Porter, Alan Howard, Michael Williams and being completely blown away by it. I worked with Eric Porter on Jewel in the Crown and I remember sitting opposite him and I couldn't believe that he was there, Eric Porter, who had been my major inspiration, with these incredibly long, beautiful hands, and I remember being mesmerised by these hands and just wanting to say to him 'I'm here today because of you'. He was wonderful." As Jewel in the Crown draws to its conclusion at

the end of August, Nice Sarah will disappear, to be replaced by Rose, as Gold (the third series of Band of Gold) is screened in October. In the meantime, Geraldine will retire to her "little house" in Sussex with Eleanor and her husband Jo Blatchley, a film producer and director at Rada. After Gold, James will reappear on screen in a new series of Kavanagh QC, scheduled for next January. "My opposing character to Rose is my wonderful QC in Kavanagh, Helena Harker. She has a very extraordinary, lateral-thinking mind, she does these great loops in her head. I read it and get mentally exhausted and to play somebody who has that mental agility... it's great. I like her very much."

It's some time since she appeared on stage, and she's itching to return. "I want to do theatre: I really, really want to do some more, because I miss it. It's been difficult because there have been things I've had to do personally, that have meant it's quite hard to commit to a long time in the theatre, but next year I will. I'll find something and do it. You

feel you're really stretching yourself in the theatre.
"I don't like doing what I've already done. But there's a lot of different kinds of characters that I'd like to play. More comedy, more classical theatre, more European theatre, more movies. I'd love to play a character close to myself in a film... because then it's about revealing, rather than about putting on a character. I try to only do jobs I don't know how to do. I did Moll Flanders although I thought it was not remotely interesting, but Morgan Freeman was going to be in it, and I thought 'Christ, I would love to work with Morgan Freeman'. I didn't particularly want to do Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* until I saw Dustin Hoffman was in it."

Some "extraordinary, exotic" people came to see The Merchant of Venice, she says. "Robert De Niro came to see it in London, and he'd just got off the plane, and Dustin was in a terrible state because De Niro was in, and I thought I was being rather marvellous, which is a dangerous thing to ever think. I knew where he was sitting and I just glanced up to see if I was being appreciated by the great De Niro and he was" - she throws back her head, closes her eyes and opens her mouth -

Another circus skill gets shot down

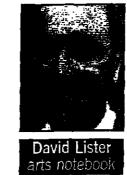
ernment's ban on handguns has come to light. The new legislation turns out to be a body blow to circus performers, and will end a tradition dating back to the kinds of acts made famous in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in the last century. Leading big top proprietor Bobby Roberts Junior, whose current touring summer show involves him juggling and twirling revolvers, is calling for an exemption for performing artists in this week's issue of

As things stand, all performers who use pistols and revolvers over 22 calibre in their acts must hand them in by the end of next month, or face prosecution for possessing prohibited weapons. So it's either a case of Parliament having to make a last minute exemption, or roll up, roll up for the fantastic Bobby

Roberts Junior and his amazing twirling water pistols. That other leading big top man

Gerry Cottle will need a room to himself if he hands over his arms to the government. Cottle's latest show The Circus of Horrors includes flick knives, hand guns, a machine-gun and a flame thrower. "It's not live ammunition," he exploded as I kept my eye warily on his holster. "This takes all the excitement out of circuses. First we have to lose our animals, now our guns. We're becoming a laughing stock with the rest of the world."

It all does seem rather ridiculous. Guns in the context of circuses and indeed stage plays are akin to start-



ing pistols - a prop, dramatic but forming arts from the new laws.

harmless. And it should not be beyond Home Office bureaucracy to exempt not only circuses but all per-Only once can I recall a circus

now deceased and much loved cowboy juggled guns, threw knives and had a drink problem. By the time of the evening show his aim would grow increasingly erratic. We shall not duck from his like again.

Surreal tales reach me of Andrew Lloyd Webber's annual jamboree at Sydmonton. Each summer, Lord Lloyd Webber throws open his Berkshire stately home to assorted friends for a preview of his latest opus. But this year there was more than a scene Guests were surprised to be asked to Now! Love. Kiri."

prop of this sort being remotely dan-gerous. It was actually in Gerry Cot-debate on the future of Europe. tle's own circus some years ago. A Well, not so mock actually. A room at Sydmonton was designed as a mini House of Commons; Norman Tebbit was one of the speakers, and the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, was acting out her day job.

Outside, the guests sat on the lawn to listen to Rowan Atkinson give a talk on his passion, fast cars. Here, it turned out, smoking could be a hazard. Some of Lord Lloyd Webber's musical friends do have rather important voices to tend after all. David Frost lit up only to have a note passed to him which from Whistle Down the Wind on offer. read: "Dave, put that cigarette out.



Here's a job description to moisten the eye. "Practically no responsibilities. Just occasionally signing a letter or two that someone else has written for you. Honey-sweet relations with the dear, friendly trustees

... Above all, abundant opportunity to get on with your own work and no need to hide it under the blotting paper when you have callers." That serene piece of nostalgia was

uncovered by the Museums Journal. It was from an article written in the 1950s by Thomas Kendrick, then director of the British Museum. Worries over whether to charge, cuts in purchase grant and a host of other problems seem to make managing a major arts institution a little tricker these days. No leisure, no blotting paper, and are there honey-sweet

arts & books

India at 507 Holroyd's definitive Shaw8 American poetry.....8 Fiction on the front line......6

IVAN KYNCL



All aboard the festival express

The Edinburgh Festival opens its 50th birthday season this weekend. In an extract from his new novel, 'No Laughing Matter', Peter Guttridge savours the flavour of life on the festival gravy train

Bridget Frost and I were both going up to the Edinburgh Festival. The Bitch of the Broadsheets, Bridget was loud, pushy, opinionated, grudge-bearing, drunken, vindictive and tacky, but she had her good points. Actually, those were her good points.

She was doing some stuff on the Fringe, which this year was bigger than ever, with around 10,000 performers and 1,200 shows. They were the kind of statistics you got in the press pack. The press office had fun expressing figures in colourful ways: for expressing ngutes in colour in ways, for example, if all the Fringe groups formed a human tower by standing on each other's shoulders, they would exceed the height of the world's tallest building by 14 kilometers with the state of the world's tallest building by 14 kilometers. tres. Well, yes, I do find that interesting.

I was going by train, Bridget by plane. Depending on your point of view, four hours on a train in the company of a bunch of writers may or may not count as a good time. But, if you're freelance, you don't turn down a free first-class return ticket when it's on offer. The Edinburgh Book Festival had two first class carriages, stacked with free food and booze, reserved for London's literary folk on a Scotlandbound Intercity 225 leaving King's Cross.

The trip was intended to be a party. My ticket even had a "plus guest" on it. But I was travelling alone. Sad, eh? I had thought of inviting Bridget to travel with me but putting her in a sealed carriage with a hunch of literary types was like giving the fox a den in the henhouse. Fortu-

nately, she preferred flying.
I've always found it best to keep booze away from writers. The history of drunkenness in literature teaches us that it's the poets you have to watch, but children's authors can be pretty tricky too. I envisaged that the combination of free drink and artistic temperament meant friend-ships springing up by Peterborough could be legendary feuds by York.

The trip was, however, sadly uneventful. People table-hopped along the aisles. A couple of film crews for those cable channels that no one ever watches shot footage with the look of people in whom hope was battling with experience. PRs ferried journalists to and from the handful of celebrity authors. As the bottles of wine and whisky circulated, things got a little raucous but, as an attractive American woman pointed out to a group at the table next to mine, there was no shagging in the aisles.

The train was on time into Waverley Station. A tall, strapping man in his fifties was standing on the platform in a kilt and sporran, as if to assure us we were indeed in Scotland. I immediately assumed he was a laird, whatever one of those was, but I overheard someone else saying he played the bagpipes on street corners for loose change. When I looked closer, I saw that, although he had a dirk tucked down one stocking, the effect was spoilt by the quarter-hottle of whisky tucked down the other. That evening I went into Charlotte

Square to the Book Festival. Edinburgh was undergoing an untypical heatwave and the tents in which the festival took place had their doors open to let in air on the sweating hordes within. I listened from the doorway as Joanna Trollope and Michael Dobbs, looking slightly indignant,

defended TV adaptations of their works. I went into the spiegeltent, a wonderful 1920s Austrian beer tent, and sat with my beer in one of the wood and glass booths around the outer rim. Sipping my drink, I looked through the Fringe brochure. Irvine Welsh was still hip and omnipresent. Six different versions of *Macbeth*. A musical history of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Not my thing really. Oscar, the Hypnotising Dog, now that was more like it.

Half-a-dozen musicians were milling around on the small stage, fiddling with microphone stands and amplifiers. When they started up, a woman sitting a few yards away started getting into it – legs bobbing, fingers snapping, head shaking. I wouldn't have minded but it wash't exactly the birth of the cool. Just a bunch of middle-management types in candy-striped waistcoats, beer guts and straw hats playing Dixieland. The woman clapped out of time.

Bridget slid into the booth beside me.

"Been to any shows yet?"
"I've been down at the Film Festival," I said. "Got talking to a director from Iceland - probably the only director from Iceland - about a comedy he'd just made there. He told me it reflected the fact a good proportion of the people are suici-dally depressed in winter, merely suicidal come spring and alcoholic all year round."

"Sounds a laugh a minute." Bridget scowled at the musicians. "I've been to two. I don't understand why they always seem to put the noisy shows right next-door to the quiet ones, with only a cardboard partition between. They might as well put all the noisy shows together and let them fight it out like a psychotic Battle of the Bands." "What'd you see?"

"I saw a musical about Robert Burns. I thought I was seeing one about Rasputin but I went next-door by mistake. The accents of the actors were so thick it took me 20 minutes to realise. It was only when butin started reciting a poem to a day gis, I twigged something was amiss. I'd thought the kilts were making a statement about universal experience."

The hand struck up another dire tune from the good old days of Dixie.

"They should be on a paddle steamer on the Mississippi," I said, grimacing, "Preferably one that's sinking. Why don't we go outside?"

Edited extract from 'No Laughing Matter' by Peter Guttridge, published in hardback at £16.99 by Headline Book Publishing and available from all bookshops, or by credit card - at the special discount price of £12.99 - from Bookpoint on 01235 400414 (lines open 9am-6pm Mon-Sat)



One from the heart

n the confident days of post-war expansion, most theatre companies were able to rotate the same classic authors to make up a repertoire of plays which Ken Campbell once wittily christened "brochure theatra". At your local playbours you theatre". At your local playhouse you could expect to see Shakespeare playing in a regular team of writers who usually included Wilde, Ibsen and Arthur Miller. But more recently, as theatres have suffered from public underfunding and as the comfortable literary consensus which underpinned their choices has disappeared, so artistic directors have needed to adopt a bolder and more improvised approach to their job. Some famous writers have continued to thrive. Chekhov's four bestknown plays are still relentlessly this enforced shake-down has been the problematic figure of George Bernard Shaw. Sometimes it is as if we no

longer quite know what to do with him. On the publication of the final volthree-part biography in 1992, several reviewers noted how unfortunate it was that the 15 years it had taken Holroyd to write the book had coincided with an irreversible decline in his subinsisted, to imagine a playwright more thoroughly out of fashion. Shaw was associated with an era of rational Fabinotorious long sentences and stagy attitudinising, embodied a fearful attitude to sex which our own more fullblooded age found spinsterish and immature. The characters were authorial mouthpieces - puppets, not people. David Hare (above, centre) in rehearsal with Richard Griffiths

David Hare explains why Shaw's 1921 state-of-thenation play is due for revival

The playwright once described as "the creator of modern consciousness" had become a victim of the fact that he had so completely dominated his own time. He had, in short, been superseded.

If these reviewers had looked a little harder, they would have found that their supposed reassessments of Shaw more truly reflected the doubts which some audiences had enjoyed about his work from the beginning. The characrevived. But the most eminent victim of ter of Bernard Shaw himself often commanded an interest and authority far wider than any of the individual plays he actually wrote. If Heartbreak House is, as its author suggested, his Lear, then it has to be said that from the press than Shakespeare's greatest masterpiece. Billed, perhaps misleadingly, as a fantasia in the Russian manner on English themes, it played at the Royal Court in Shaw's own 1921 production ject's reputation. It would be hard, they at over four hours. Its length alone attracted a level of dismissive vituperation which Shaw's recent detractors could hardly hope to emulate. Shaw's anism which no longer spoke to the attempts to mix high farce with divine modern world. His plays, with their tragedy, and to marble an apparent comedy of manners with grave presentiments of impending catastrophe have elicited an exasperation in some spectators which has never truly abated.

The purpose of reviving Heartbreak House just before the millennium (without altering or updating the text) is to take a timely look at the century's first and outstanding state-of-the-nation play, aware that it exhibits many of the characteristics of that extraordinary genre which has given modern British drama so much of its distinctive spirit. By gathering together a collection of Bloomsbury-like bohemians in a Sussex house. Shaw appears to set off in a familiar Chekhovian direction, analysing the destiny of a country by portraying the life and loves of a representative group of middle-class people. He looks ahead to the coming century and sees it as no mendly place for romantics or adventurers, but belonging instead to a narrow new class of depressing capitalists who are determined to reduce life to its lowest common denominator. Who can say he was wrong? Yet even in this overall scheme, so uncannily prophetic about the world we now live in - Captain Shotover, for instance, is working on Ronald Reagan's Star Wars strategy, the weapon which will destroy all other weapons there is a wildness of texture, a sheer

strangeness of vision which is often so

personal and peculiar that we may

almost rub our ears, in danger of

disbelieving what we have heard. Many critics have rightly drawn attention to the zaniness of Shaw's humour. His playfulness with theatre itself is taken to prefigure the arrival of absurdists like Beckett and Ionesco. But less noticed, it seems, is Shaw's underlying steel. Under the surface of the play which shifts around in the manner of all great, elusive work - lies the disturbing contention that it is not useful to try and be happy; that happiness, indeed, may be only a failure and a lure. Using a method of reversal which is notably Brechtian. Shaw reveals how easily the wish to enjoy life may slip into a deadly infatuation with dreams.

No wonder this uncomfortable portrait of a society in which people are habitually distracted from their better purposes is one which theatregoers have sometimes found hard to contemplate. But they have also not been helped by a view of the play which emphasises its frivolity and rhetoric at the expense of its deeper feelings. Far from the governing tone being either light-hearted or elegiac, it is, on the contrary, full of the feverishness of genuine despair. Underneath the banter, underneath the central story of a young girl growing up in the course of a single evening, lies a sense of wasted passion that belies Shaw's reputation as a cold or cerebral writer. "It has more of the miracle, more of the mystic belief in it than any of my others." wrote the author of his own favourite play. It also, he might have added, has more of the heart.

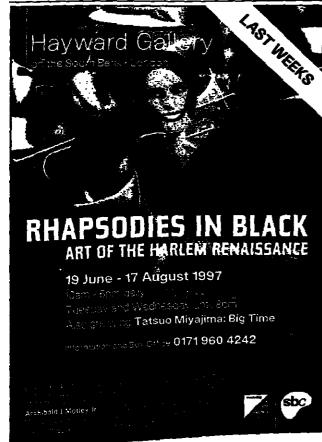
David Hare's production of 'Heartbreak House' is at the Almeida Theatre, London N1. from 3 Sept to 11 Oct, previewing from Thursday. Booking: 0171-359 4404

Edinburgh coverage



"What is this garbage about music being the highest art form?" The Independent's comprehensive coverage of this year's 51st Edinburgh Festival begins in the broadsheet on Monday when American choreographer Twyla Tharp explains her philosophy of dance to David Benedict.

Plus, for all the latest news and reviews from the International, Fringe and Film Festivals, see the daily Tabloid, Tuesday to Friday



David Benedict **WEEK IN REVIEW**



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GERAINT LEWIS



THE FILM

Bean

Rowan Atkinson breaks silence by adding his voice

to a big-screen re-creation of his stupelyingly

popular TV persona of the bumbling incompetent.

serenely unaware of the chaos he creates around him. Older readers will recognise him as a graduate of the Harry Worth / Norman Wisdom school. Written by Richard (Four Weddings) Curtis and Robin Driscoll and directed by Mel Smith.

Ryan Gilbey likened it to "Mr Magoo with added

malice and mucus ... If the film has anything in its favour, it's brevity". "Bean is not an acquired taste,

you either have it or not. You might, though, in a

instance, after seeing this movie," warned the FT.
"The kind of shallow movie that only works if you

include pants wetting, eruptions of nasal snot and a bag of vomit burst playfully over someone's head," shuddered The Standard. "These gags are not so much cheap as bargain basement," scomed

shut your mind to the qualities of all great

comedies: rigour, intelligence, imagination and humanity," thundered The Times. "Highlights

moment of doubt, or panic, try to unacquire it. For





THE BALLET Romeo and Juliet

Coliseum with Lavrovsky's Romeo and Juliet, added confirmation that they have triumphantly survived

Asylmuratova danced a yearningly fateful Juliet, with

Louise Levene enthused about the production: "A

stag-line of enormously promising young men ...

Almost operatic staging gives the street scenes a verismo and vitality enhanced by the

full-blooded dancing and zestful mime of the

diamond has been their prima ballerina Altynai

'At its heart was Altynai Asylmuratova's Juliet, and she justified every moment. None of the

Asylmuratova... Has any dancer ever been so completely gifted?" gasped the Telegraph. "Looks odd," mused the FT, which still had to concur,

chorus," and she doted on Juliet's "exotic, tip-tilted beauty". "The Kirov's Koh-i-noor

On Monday, the Kirov Ballet returned to the

their post-Communist impoverishment. Áltynai

Viktor Baranov as her Romeo. It was the Queen Mum's 97th birthday; Mercutio's testosterone-drenched performance was an ideal gift.

Once again, Alan Bates takes the leading role in a new play by Simon Gray. This time he stars as a fraudulent travel writer stung into grief as he attends the bedside of his wife (Georgina Hale) who lies in a coma. Harold Pinter, an old hand when it comes to directing Gray, is back in charge with Carole Nimmons, Nickolas Grace and Frank McCusker in supporting roles.

THE PLAY

Life Support

Paul Taylor found it "moving, astute, often funny. [Alan Bates] does the author especially proud ... He superbly suggests a man struggling to master overwhelming grief". "One of Gray's finest, strongest exercises in sardonic tragedy, black comedy, categorise it how you will," averred The Times. "Grips throughout ... When Bates suddenly surges with anger, or succumbs to a devastating sense of loss, the dramatic effect is explosive," gasped the Telegraph: "Quietly moving if lacking in theatrical dynamism ... perversely, one sometimes sighs for a touch of the old talent to abuse," admitted The Guardian. "A tremendously moving, bed-bound performance by Georgina Hale ... a civilised rather than a memorable evening," decided the Mail.

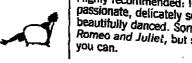
At the Aldwych Theatre, London WC2 (0171-416 6003) to 18 Oct.

Cert PG, 89 mins. On release absolutely

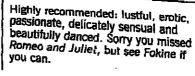
See Grosse Pointe Blank instead.

the Telegraph.

The Kirov end their UK visit with a second Fokine programme at the Coliseum, London WC2 (0171-632 8300) today at 2pm and 7.30pm.

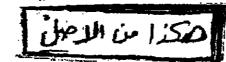






other playing came near her."





Don't be put off by the seemingly

bleak scenario. A fine production.



Playing for time

He sang before he could speak. He's been playing the piano since he could reach the keys. And some already place him in the pantheon of all-time keyboard greats. Now, at 26, Evgeny Kissin has been rewarded with the Proms' first ever solo recital. But first he plays a game of verbal chess with Edward Seckerson

unearthly about

the walk to the

piano, the bow -

lanky, awkward,

diffident... And

then he plays, and

the awkwardness

falls away, and

there is total

harmony - mind,

hen Evgeny Kissin was a year old (or so he's reliably informed), he stood up in his cot, pointed decisively at the piano, and uttered one word: "OPEN!" So any suggestion that this prodigy was shamelessly exploited can be quickly discounted. His parents were obedient. They hadn't planned things this way (sons grow up to be engineers like their fathers, don't they?). His mother played, his elder sister played. Evgeny listened. He was such a quiet child. (Didn't they realise he was listening?) He was no trouble. (Didn't they realise he was concentrating?) He sang before he could speak. Bach's A major Fugue. His sister was studying it at the time. (Didn't they realise he

keyboard. (A minor detail.) But time was pressing. And the initiative was his. "OPEN!" Like I say,

his parents were obedient. Kissin can't remember a time when he wasn't playing the piano. And he remembers everything. Total recall. At three-anda-half (you see), the improvisations began. Anything he heard he could sing, and anything he sang he could play. At six his parents packed him off to the Gnessin School of Music for Gifted Children in Moscow. His teacher was (still is) Anna Pavlovna Kantor, who gave bim a volume of Tchaikovsky, suggesting that he might begin work on three or four of the pieces. He memorised the lot. "He could play everything, but didn't know any-

instinct, intuition, musicality - the elements were already in place. Reason would follow. Kissin made his concert debut at the age of

10 in Mozart's Piano Concerto K466. A year later he played his first solo recital in Moscow. Then came the big one. In March 1984, he performed both Chopin Piano Concertos in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory with the State Philharmonic under Dmitri Kitaenko. The call went out around the world: "This kid is going to put Horowitz out of business." Herbert von Karajan beckoned from Berlin. The story goes that he was so entranced by the precocious 17year-olds account of Tchaikovsky's B flat minor Concerto that he forgot to cue the flute's entry after the cadenza. Kissin is 26 now and some believe that a place has already been reserved for him in the pantheon of all-time keyboard greats. Mark Zilberquist, the American critic and author of Great Russian Pianists, was quoted as saying: "He is partly on earth and partly somewhere else. He was never a child prodigy, but a small genius. Now he is just a genius."

"Partly on earth and partly somewhere else..." Now there's a phrase that stays with you. There is something unearthly, other-worldly, about Kissin's appearance and demeanour. You see it first from afar, from your seat in the concert hall. The walk to the piano, the bow-lanky, awkward, diffident, as if the child has not quite grown into the man's body, as if that giant leap from childhood to manhood happened so fast that there simply wasn't time. And then he plays, and the awkwardness, the diffidence falls away, and there is total harmony - mind, body, spirit. Meeting Kissin - face to face - alters the perspective, but does little to dispel those first impressions. It's a child's face, an open face, with this shock of big hair which appears to have gone AWOL from a David Lynch movie. The smile is nervous but sincere, the manner charming but professional. He knows how to behave in an interview situation (as in: he'd rather be undergoing root canal work but doesn't show ing from Robert to Clara (check out Kissin's it), though it soon becomes apparent that the

process will be slow and painstaking, that to reach him, to understand him, will require one to probe beyond the concise, even cryptic, responses he at first volunteers, to coax and cajole, maybe even insist a little.

You begin with a concession of sorts. He is so plainly an intuitive musician, a born communicator, that talking about music must be difficult for him? "Very much so..." Long pause (whatever you do, don't jump in now or you'll kill the punchline)... "but not impossible." A half-smile, as if to say, "Well done, good start, you've got my number." And I have. Kissin is not an easy interviewee. His English is excellent: fluent, authoritative, only slightly accented, But he uses words sparingly (fair enough, it's nceded quiet to memorise it?) He was 11 his fingers that do the talking). And he thinks months old. Not yet old enough to reach the long and hard about which words. Sometimes

they're not worth waiting for, other times they really There is something hit the spot. It depends. The waiting can be unnerving, even frustrat-Kissin's demeanour. ing, and on occasions your question may be met with a scowl or an irritatedsounding counter-thrust, which isn't rudeness, just concentration. Kissin likes to play chess. I'd say he exhibits a similar approach

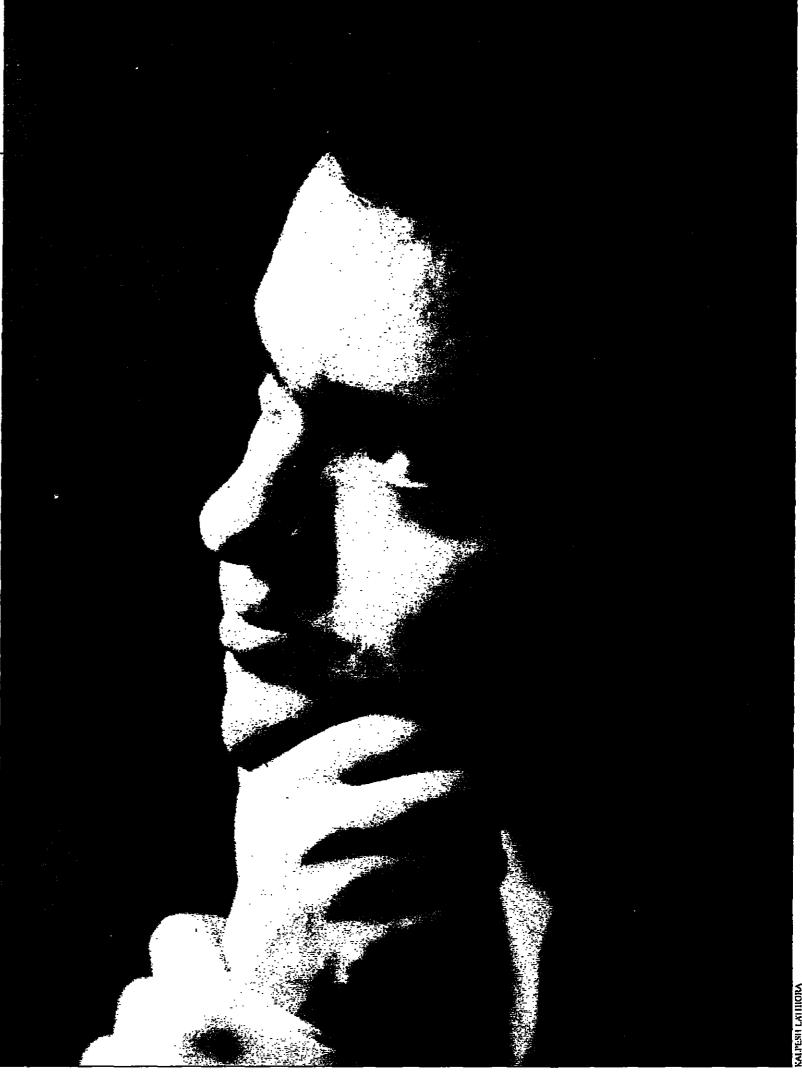
in conversation. So you press him some more as to why it's so difficult for him to talk about music, and he gives you what, by his standards, is quite an expansive answer. *I feel a certain resistance. Music seems to me to itself that verbalising it sometimes feels pointless, even vulgar." So how does he imagine I feel having to do just that each and every

body, spirit thing," she later said of working day? It's a light-him. Meaning that the technical skills, the hearted rebuke. He is unfazed. "It's quite different for critics and musicologists. My task is to present music as music, not as words...' Check, but not yet mate.

Kissin needs to play the piano almost as much as he wants to. Ask him if he feels he missed out on not having a "normal" childhood (a respiratory problem kept him from school long before his performing did) and his answer is No, not at all, because sitting at the piano playing was what I wanted to do more than anything in the world." But how could be possibly have known, at two or three years of age? "I don't think I ever knew. It was an wge, purely instinctive." So playing the piano never felt like a substitute, the last refuge of a lonely child? Parental pressure was never brought to bear? Only to practise. He never enjoyed practice. He could happily play "all day long", but practice that was something else. Now, of course, there is less of a distinction to be drawn. He practises - meaning he sits down to play - as much as he needs to. And he instinctively knows how much that is? "Yes, of course."

So how is it with performance? Does he know, does he instinctively know, when it's working, when the dots on the page begin taking on a life of their own? Leonard Bernstein always maintained that he could gauge precisely how well or otherwise a performance was going by the extent to which he felt he was composing the piece himself. Kissin can relate to that. He describes the feeling as one of total release, as if all your concerns - technical and otherwise - suddenly, mysteriously, evaporate and

you are at ease, at one, with the piece. "The element of improvisation is often present in my playing. Of course this depends on the repertoire. But this element is often present, and in such moments when I feel especially inspired, when everything is falling into place, it is present to an even higher degree... And so a piece like Schumann's C major Fantasy - that most exalted song of love and long-



playing of it. And when that happens, when Kissin is flying, we all get sucked into the jet stream.

But how about when it doesn't happen? How about the occasions (and there must be some) when the force is simply not with him? What then? Engage automatic pilot? Some critics have suggested that Kissin's prodigious technique can be a handicap, that knowing he can rely upon it takes the imperative out of his playing: "I cannot rely on anything unless I prepare well," he replies, in a manner redolent of an official statement. But he has taken the point. And he has a story to tell. Ten years ago, while on tour in Japan with the Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and their violinist/conductor Vladimir Spivakov, he "didn't play as well as he should have". After the concert, Spivakov came to his room to ask what had happened. "I explained that my mood was all wrong, that I just couldn't find a way into the music. And he said something that has stayed with speak so eloquently for me ever since. He said, 'A real artist must be able to create the right mood for himself'."

So he never knowingly coasts the music, never knowingly goes along for the ride. Some performances yield more than others: unexpected details, different inflections, voicings, colours, a unique atmosphere. Some performances simply provide more answers than others. How does that feel? "Very nice." Just "very nice"? What if it's a special moment: do you think about it afterwards, analyse it, seek to preserve it? "Difficult to say..." And here comes another of those interminable pauses for thought, here comes the scowl, the shifty silence. He starts to form a sentence but stops. You want to help him out but you know not to. He's focusing. This reply will be worthy of Gary Kasparov... "I'm not even sure that I always remember those moments. As far as preserving them is concerned, well, as long as I preserve my love for the music and that in turn inspires me in performance, then those things will else... Maybe one day a psychoanalyst will discover keep happening by themselves. Which doesn't why. But, for now, it's too personal a feeling to want

everything that's good about my playing happens spontaneously. Not at all. I always have a clear plan my head of how I'm going to play. But I often have to make things sound spontaneous. That is, of course, different from when something just comes to me unexpectedly during a performance. Both elements are important and necessary."

But can the one overwhelm the other? Am I alone in thinking that his live 1993 recording of the Rachmaninov Third (Shine with the notes, as Nicholas Kenyon quipped at his Proms press conference) sounds oddly calculated, a young man's self-conscious attempt to play down, even subdue, the virtuosic elements - to be awfully grown up about the piece? A young man with something to prove? "Not at all. I played it, and I still play it, in the way that I feel it." But less self-consciously? "I think it's a mis-take to treat it as a showpiece." And so do I, but I find it hard to believe that your performance - or rather your view - of the piece hasn't changed since then? "You rightly corrected yourself: my performance must have changed but my view hasn't." Checkmate, I think.

Tomorrow afternoon, Kissin becomes the first pianist ever to give a solo recital at the Proms. On a podium which will place him right at the heart of the action - that is, in the arena, in the bosom of the promenaders - Kissin will play a programme of Haydn, Liszt and Chopin. The Chopin pieces - the Two Nocturnes, Op 27, and the Sonata No 3 in B minor - are among his most favourite in all music. He can't explain why. He is reluctant to try. I probe. Could it be the solitary nature of this music (private passions secretly indulged in public)? Could there perhaps be something about the man (he has dutifully devoured the letters) that he secretly identifies with? "I think if I could express why it is I love Chopin so much, then it would not be love but something

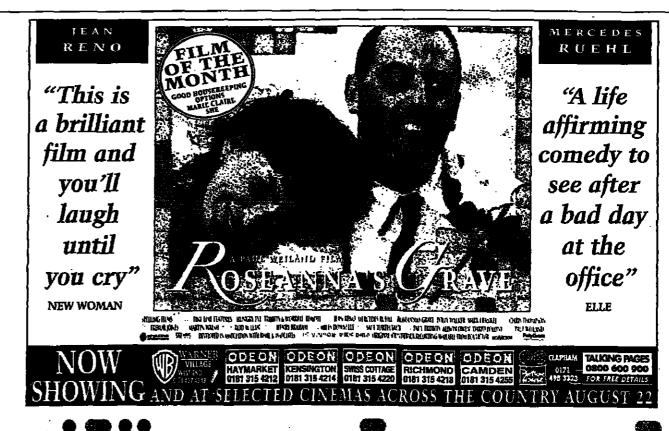
so it would seem) in the moment of creation, in the mean," he adds in a rare burst of animation, "that to analyse. I simply can't say..." Any more than he can say what it is about 18th-century French painting and Italian opera (yes, even Verdi, particularly Verdi) that he so dislikes. Kissin is full of surprises. He likes walking. And you're purring in agreement - "Ah, yes, long country walks..." - when he adds, "fast walks in cities".

He reckons if he weren't a musician he would either be a journalist or a tour guide. How so? Exploration. Discovery. Different places, different cultures, different languages. Just like music. "And as tour guide you are showing the same things to different people, over and over again. And you have to keep

them interested. Just like playing..."
He sometimes plays for friends. Just for friends. It's the nearest he gets to those solitary childhood days when he played just for pleasure. Does he ever feel that the audience is an intrusion, that even one listener is too many? "NEVER." (The emphasis he places on that one word speaks volumes.) "I play for those who come to listen to me. My audiences are an inspiration to me. And if they are not, then it's usually my fault. It's my business to keep them interested and attentive...

A minute or two pass. The conversation has moved on... "Please, I would like to add something... Because I love the music I play so much, I want to share it with my audiences. In no way are they an intrusion." Another "official statement", Just to make sure. But it really isn't necessary. Among Kissin's press cuttings is the story of a recital in Bologna where fire officers were forced to turn off the electricity at midnight after his 13th encore. His Prom is at 3pm. John Eliot Gardiner and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique are due on at 7.30.

Evgeny Kissin at the Proms: 3pm tomorrow, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212) and live on BBC Radio 3. Kissin's new recording of Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos 2 & 5 is released this week on Sony Classical (SK 62926)





'Shaanxi, 1957' from 'Marc Riboud in China: forty years of photography (Thames & Hudson, £35) PHOTOGRAPH: MARC RIBOUD MAGNUM

House of the spirits

Is fiction closer to astrology or history? **Justin Wintle** balances hard fact and heavenly fancy in two far-eastern family sagas

The Bondmaid by Catherine Lim, Oriel, £5.99; One Thousand Chestnut Trees by Mira Stout, Flamingo, £16.99

ome years ago, returning from the Far East, I had a peculiar experience in Hatchard's, the London bookseller. Standing in front of the fiction table, anxious to discover what everyone had been up to in my absence but still debilitated by dysentery, with my head therefore lighter than a Kyoto parasol, lighter even than a Javan firefly's fitful evanescence, an apparitional thought welled up. Fiction is of the same order as astrology. Like astrologists, novelists seek to impose their make-believe on an unsuspecting public according to rules they themselves have fabricated. So why take what they write so seriously?

As I re-immersed myself in literary culture, this seditious insight receded. Yet, asked to review Catherine Lim, I was reminded of that moment of enlightenment. Is this a criticism of The Bond-



maid? I hope not Rather, it is to draw attention to the remarkable skill of its Singaporean author. The story she tells is conventional enough, by occidental as well as oriental standards. A tiny girl, Han, is sold by her impoverished mother to a Mandarin family. The fortunes of the House of Wu, however, hang precariously by a single thread: the young master, just two years older than Han.
What follows is fatal-attraction chop suey. The

two children form an inseparable attachment that their elders, employers and servants do everything in their power to stymie. At length the young master is sent away. He returns a "scholar", fit for betrothal to Li-Li, the ornamental daughter of the gamut of deftly painted human props is here. even more prestigious House of Ghang. The main line of the House of Wu will be spared, at least for another generation.

But inevitably the bond between the young master and the serving girl reasserts itself. Neither Han's beauty, nor her craving, can remain forever

has a strong premonition of the unhappy dénouement, then - allowing for a few strange twists - that premonition is likely to prove correct.

In fiction, as in cuisine, it is the sauce with the meat that satisfies. The Bondmaid is decked out, upstairs and downstairs, with a gallery of characters finely balanced between stereotype and individuality: a sybaritic great-grandfather, for example, now confined to his bed and attended by his vengeful servant Chu; a matriarch who cannot properly sustain her own stern code; a head bondmaid, the sour spinster Choyin, who willingly sustains it for her, an imbecile called Spitface. A whole

Even the ever-wilful Han is - for anyone familiar with, say, Gong Li in Raise the Red Lantern a recognisable type. What animates and humanises Lim's puppets is their superstition. The priest aside, all imagine themselves to be in thrall to gods and spirits. The drama of the protagonists is shadcloaked by her plain garments. And if the reader owed by a contest between the near-omnipotent

Sky God and the lesser Forgetful Goddess. Catherine Lim doesn't for a moment suppose the spirit world exists outside of human hopes and fears, but inside, they are real enough. Hers is a version of the Chinese in Singapore set in a semirecent past untroubled by the Japanese invasion or the Malay Emergency. The only historical alignment is with the present, when we discover that the Wu estate has become a petrochemical plant. Even so, The Bondmaid surpasses the pulp paper-

back market earmarked by its publisher. I cared less for One Thousand Chestnut Trees, mainly because it seems chronically undecided as to what it wants to be other than the Korean counterpart of Jung Chang's unmatchable Wild Swans. A young woman, of mixed Korean and Irish-American parentage, leaves New York for some Seoulsearching in her mother's native land. She pieces together a family history which, being deter-mined by the deadliest 20th-century conflicts, is woeful enough. The narrative is split between three

voices: the young woman's, her mother's and her grandfather's, and the result issued as a novel.

That classification becomes increasingly arbitrary. The voices blur and there are too many passages of lacklustre travel reportage, including mandatory shopping and foodie paragraphs. Large chunks of Korean history are recycled on flat tyres.

Mira Stout's real concern, in what I suspect is

thinly veiled family memoir, is the mother-daughter relationship. To appease her mother the girl undertakes to visit the chestnuts of the title, a grove planted on a mountain near the border with North Korea to screen a family shrine from soldiers. But although she is foiled by the weather, somehow the journey achieves its objective.

A determined push, and Mira Stout might have got there. Despite an enviable gift for natural description, she has difficulty in shaping her material. Writing novels may indeed be an arcane practice, but for all that a strict one too. How hard the subject-matter presses is incidental.

Fiction on the front line

Good prose, pity about the poetry, says Philippa Gregory

Patrimony by Jane Thynne, Fourth Estate, £9.99

he trick of any sort of whodunit or who-is-it novel is the sly revelation of clues to the reader without blowing the plot altogether. Equally, if one is to create any faith in the hero, then he or she has to be at least one jump ahead. In the case of Patrimony the reader is bellowing "Look Behind you!" from about page 150, but the heroine remains stubbornly unaware. Heavy breathing on her answer phone, four burglaries which no one reports to the police, the disappearance of a colleague, all fail to disturb our heroine with the notion that something is Up. What is Up is the slow

uncovering of a secret history of a World War One poet, a contemporary of Sassoon and Owen. Disastrously, his poetry is quoted in the novel:

He vowed to serve his country For King and common good But no pledge prepared him for the foe he met

Stumbling out there in the mud Advice to all non-poet authors: never invent poetry and hail it as great literature. The exception to this rule is Antonia Byatt.
This flaw is compounded as the

plot hinges on our heroine correctly identifying other newly-discovered poetry as the ghastly doggerel of the poet's talentless daughter:

Like the barrel of a gun in the hand of a spy The sun regards us with a dispassionate eye We're in the unambiguous world of Where the cloudless landscape

doesn't lie. Well, search me, but I thought that they were both equally awful and thus no clue at all

Thynne's ear for her own prose is erratic. There is some genuinely fine writing, but the reader is thrown off course by a sudden phrase of teethgritting awfulness. Our heroine shunned the rites of reconciliation which means, I suppose, that she

refused a solacing screw, a beneficent bonk, a forgiving f*** – alliteration is

We are on safer ground with the unfolding of the two stories that make the body of the novel. The contemporary story is that of Elsa, who works in an independent film production company and wants to make a film about the World War One poet, Valentine Siddons. Her discovery of the mystery behind the legend leads her into a personal discovery too - of the man she is ready to love. It is a simple romance but it is told with conviction and

Their story is intertwined with that of the poet himself, who marries young and foolishly, loves an older and selfish woman, and goes to his death at Passchendaele. The two stories are told alternately, and inevitably there is a drift of interest towards the story of love, frustration and death, and away from the lighter notes of the modern story. Contemporary life has less glamour than prewar Edwardian England, the issues for Valentine Siddons are graver than those of his modern-day

biographers. When the poet is sent forward to the front line, the narrative takes a darker and powerful turn. This part of the novel is excellently researched and movingly told. Thynne has the ability to paint a landscape, and explore a character, and her skills are well-deployed in the poignant descriptions of a countryside and men destroyed by war. Elsa, the modern heroine, speaks from the heart when she says that to make a romantic and rosy picture of such a past is to betray the dead who were forced to their deaths in a war that was neither rosy nor romantic. Thynne can congratulate herself on this: that she has been true to her heroine's standards. She has not written a "dreadful sepia-tinted love story", "all passion and haircuts", but a thoughtful and powerful account of a war which still casts a shadow



Embedded in the past: David Bowie in 'Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence' PHOTO: KOBAL

Julie Wheelwright on the captive's life sentence Easy Peasy by Lesley Glaister, Bloomsbury,

alf a century after the Second World War's end, its psychological reverberations still ripple quietly through our lives. But the impact on the thirtysomething generation of their parents war is a rich seam largely improved until war is a rich seam largely ignored until recently. Now Lesley Glaister explores the shaping of a family by a father's experiences in a language arring of the same in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.
Zelda, a second-hand clothes dealer who

lives with her female lover Foxy, learns that her father has committed suicide. She rewinds her memories, searching for a key to understanding his misery, and turns to a relatively happy period just at the edge of puberty. With consummate skill, Glaister evokes the unalloyed sweetness of a child's pleasure: a tree house complete with an ant farm, the smell of a baking Swiss roll, the

peace of early mornings.

But at night Zelda lies braced for her father's screams, which regularly jar the household from its sleep. Although never spoken, his trauma is acted out through strange habits. History's significance is woven through the novel. Foxy is an oral historian, but adopted and with no interest in finding her birth parents; Zelda dresses in Forties' fashions.

The tension that runs like a live wire through relationships heightens when an awkward, deaf boy named Vassily Pudilchuk moves in next door and Zelda's parents force her to befriend him. Nicknamed "dogbelly", Vassily is the fatherless new boy at school, and his Mum is on the game. With their uncanny instinct for hounding the vulnerable, the children select him for torture and Zelda's own cruel jokes escalate as her father pays him increasing attention at home. Egged on by her elder sister, the girls plot revenge. "It was as if I had a goblin's face printed on my heart, ugly, far uglier than Dog-belly's ... If he had been big and strong I don't think I would have felt like that. But he was weak."

Glaister deftly controls a complicated plot and an emotionally charged subject without descending into clichés about the victims of war. Zelda's adult memories of Vassily parallel her revelations about her father's war experiences. As she begins to accept the horrors of her father's wartime legacy, she looks with a new pragmatism on her relationship with the faithless Foxy. The adult Vassily, now a successful architect, accepts Zelda's apology. Finally, Wanda, Vassily's errant mother, emerges as the unexpected link in the chain who allows for understanding and forestimators. With understanding and forgiveness. With understanding there is closure, and the dead can finally rest.

Tropical baroque and roll

Alberto Manguel shares his passion for a perfect summer's read

The Aguero Sisters by Cristina García, Picador, £15.99

ohn Ruskin would not have been happy in the tropics: he didn't approve of Nature having human passions. "The state of mind that attributes to it those characters of a living creature is one in which the reason is unhinged by grief. All violent feelings have the same effect." Well, maybe in England. But in Cuba (or in the New Cuba aka Miami) things are different. The weather is vengeful, the earth greedy, the fruit erotic, the birds ominous, the water full of dangerous memories. To survive, one must observe these emotions and learn from them. Ruskin wouldn't have lasted a day.

In Cristina García's second novel, two sisters, one in Miami and one in Cuba, learn through trial and error to read Nature's changing moods. Reina, the Cuban, an electrician trained by the Revolucion, is adept at taming electrical power, but that does not prevent her from becoming its victim. While attempting to lift electric pumps from the jungle mud, she is felled by a bolt of lightning that leaves her radiant with sensual heat and in need of skin grafts. Constancia, in her Florida exile, can command from flowers and fruits the essences needed for her celebrated beauty concoctions, but she will not heed to Goddess of Nature, Oshun (who in Christian lands is also the Virgin Mary) and must eventually make amends for her stubbornness. Hoping that together they may begin to make sense of their disjointed lives, Reina travels to Miami to live with her sister, from whom she was

separated in childhood. To understand the will of Nature. the sisters must understand themselves. Nature's emotions (Ruskin would have had a fit) are reflected in the sisters as in two dark mirrors, and also in those who surround them: their parents, whose love ended in murder and . suicide; their grandfather from

distant Spain; their inefficient husbands and lovers; their difficult daughters who must repeat their mothers' mistakes until the chain is

Half adventure story and half romantic thriller, The Aguero Sisters is packed with clues to the sisters' identity; in the past, the father's attraction to rare, or vanished species, and the mother's uncanny ability to discover lost worlds; in the present, Reina's sexual avidity which her own daughter inherits, and Constancia's appropriation of her mother's features until she can no longer recognise herself. "Life is in the mirror," runs a line of verse her father once taught Reina, "and you are the original death." The sisters' quest, in the end, is no more than the search for their own mortality.

In 16th-century Spain, the baroque artists of the Counter-Reformation devised a clever method for making sense of the divine mystery and yet allowing it to remain secret. They surrounded a kernel of meaning with layers of volutes and flourishes, so that its existence could only be guessed at from its outer skin. Cristina García (who writes in English) has used this device to great effect in this formidable and enthralling novel. Both Cuban realities – life on the island under Castro, and exile and wishful thinking in Miami – are utterly convincing and ultimately mysterious. The sisters' rich saga takes place simultaneously in the daily Cuban world of home cooking, Castro's restrictions and Miami's politics of exile, as well as in the immanent world of gods older than history – gods of earth and water whom most of us have chosen to forget.

chosen to torget.

From the first luscious pages describing a duck bunt in Cuba to the epilogue (which retells the hunt, this time charged with our knowledge of that "thin, permanent season", the future), The Aguero Sisters cannot be put down. Sexy, pungent as a mango, wildly romantic, redolent of the tropics, it is a perfect summer's read - even in the sober land of Ruskin.

حكذا من الملصل

Ancient and modern: India at 50

Michael Arditti takes a taboo-breaking tour of the underworld

The Invisibles by Zia Jaffrey, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99

ica to Delhi for a family wedding. She was astonished to discover the uninvited but tolerated presence of the hijras (eunuchs), who sang raucously, mimicked childbirth, insulted the guests and were paid handsomely for their pains. Her wish to learn more about this ancient tradition was discouraged. Instead, she was advised to "study something useful, like our urban development planning". Fortunately, stubbornness prevailed.

The result, 12 years later, was The Invisibles, which might have been titled The Unknowables. Although Jaffrey undertakes a fascinating voyage around the hijras, much about them – from their development to their current strength, variously estimated at between 25,000 and 1.250,000 – remains a mystery. Despite the apparent openness of a particular eunuch "family", their revelations are carefully guarded. They are happy to discuss the more socially acceptable aspects of their lives (their presence at weddings and after child-birth) while categorically denying any murkier practices; kidnap, mutilation and prostitution.

The Invisibles, appropriately for its subject, is a hybrid. The quest for the hijrus provides Jaffrey (and the reader) with the opportunity to discover India. She describes herself as born with "that spiritual wishy-washiness" of being neither Indian nor American. The "otherness" of the hijrus mirrors her own. Her aunt warns her that to study the eunuchs will make no man want her: the subject is so taboo in polite society that she is ushered out of a party when she broaches it. On the other hand, friends and contacts go out of their way to help her, battling with an inefficient bureaucracy.

One part of Jaffrey's scheme is to provide a historical perspective on the hijras. She is told that in contemporary hijra society "all castes are represented ... Hindu and Muslims alike". Their origins are, however, more contentious. They are mentioned in the ancient Hindu epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. It is probable that the tradition, which flourished in North India, derived from Hinduism and grew in prominence under Islam.

Jaffrey quotes Western observers from Marco Polo onwards on the role of eunuchs under the feudal rulers. Some commended their loyalty, most denounced their barbarism and servility. She notes the British attempt to destroy their privileges as part of the policy of ridding India of her "debased oriental practices". In the event, all they did was to drive the hijrus from the countryside to become part of the urban underclass, which the British largely ignored.

Her exploration of this underclass constitutes the most engrossing sections of the book. She provides a gruesome eyewitness account of a castration ceremony, where a boy is made to sit on a thickly oiled wooden phallus prior to having his testicles removed. Other sources tell of the hijras cutting off their own penises (which palace eunuchs had to produce, pickled in jars, as proof of their impotence). One common way for the hijras to extort money is by threatening to expose themselves; another is by threatening to expose the impotence of married men. They have the licensed raillery of Shakespearean fools, witnessed when they sing at the birth of the first child (after 12 years) of a Hyderabad businessman and name the boy as the son of the family's cook.

In the last resort, there is a sadness about the hijrus, exemplified for Jaffrey when she returns to India after 10 years and finds the original "family" who befriended her in ruins. Indian society is ordered around families. Excluded from ordinary families, the hijrus create an alternative, grouped around a guru, but it is one born of desperation rather than freedom. The self-mutilation is the antithesis of any exploration of sexual ambiguity that might be welcomed in the West.

This is a lucid, sympathetic and unsensational exploration of a unique phenomenon. At the end, one of Jaffrey's correspondents writes that he hopes that "you will be fair in dealing with the subject, so that it may not hurt the feelings of any caste or creed or person". It is a hope which she has admirably fulfilled.





IMAGES OF INDIA

Search for identity: in the half-century since the sub-continent's independence, the practice of untouchability persists in subtle and crude forms, while many minorities continue to feel insecure

PHOTOGRAPHS: OEOFF PER

Saint and spinner: Denis Judd unravels the Mahatma myth

Rediscovering Gandhi by Yogesh Chadha, Century, £20

The life of Mahatma Gandhi intrigued, baffled and inspired his contemporaries. Today it is no easier to arrive at the essential truth about a man whom the great radical journalist James Cameron called "one of the truly significant figures of the 20th century" and whom Winston Churchill sneeringly dismissed as "a half-naked fakir". Was he, as a police report concluded in 1915, simply "a psychological case", or a uniquely gifted politician whose consummate skills mobilised the Indian masses and tore the heart out of the British Raj?

Next week sees the 50th anniversary of the creation of India and Pakistan. In January 1998 it will be half a century since Gandhi's assassination. Given the current torrent of commemorative books and programmes, the publishers' claim that this is "the first major biography of Gandhi for over twenty years" is a touch too ambitious. Yogesh Chadha has set out to reclaim Gandhi "as a human being out of the many myths surrounding him. He had his failings and his favourites, but to suppress these weaknesses would be to

undermine his strengths".

The biography is very readable and, given the astounding complexity and range of Gandhi's activities, manageable and accessible. The quotations are

mostly well chosen, sometimes unfamiliar and rarely too long. Chadha employs a commendable variety of views and interpretations, and seems genuinely to be striving to uncover the truth. The turning-points of Gandhi's career are convincingly explained. His principles, or possibly his eccentricities, are fairly scrutinised – including his renunciation of sexual relations with his wife.

On this issue, Chadha quotes
Gandhi's assertion that sexual
intercourse was sinful save for
procreation, and that abstinence had a
higher purpose: "Without conquering
lust, man cannot hope to rule over self,
without rule over self there can be no
swaraj (self-rule)". But he also reminds
us of the more plausible theory that
Gandhi's "attitude towards sex had
emanated from the profound sense of
guilt" he experienced as a result of
making love with his wife rather than
being with his father when he died.

There are failings in the book. The understanding of some of the imperial and British background is incomplete. The bibliography is brief, dated and omits some crucial works. The end-notes are unconventionally presented and hard to follow. Edwin Montagu, the reforming Secretary of State for India in the early 1920s, becomes "Montague" throughout. Gandhi's role in wrecking the draft constitution painfully negotiated in 1946 after the arrival of the British Cabinet Mission is seriously underestimated. The

chapter on the plot to kill Gandhi is enticingly entitled "A Permissive Assassination" but signally fails to deliver new information.

Despite these, and other, reservations, Chadha's biography charts with some skill its subject's transformation from awkward, youthful mediocrity to political superstar. In many ways, Gandhi was good news for the Raj, despite his potential for mobilising the masses and his sheer cussedness.

Gandhi preached non-violent resistance, and not bloody revolution. He had a taste for parleying with viceroys rather than throwing bombs at them, and remained on good terms with almost all his chief British opponents – although the same could not be said about his relations with either the Muslim leader Jinnah or the pro-Japanese Subhas Bose.

Perhaps this is why his abrupt and shocking death moved so many to grief. Jan Smuts, for whom he astutely made a pair of sandals while imprisoned in South Africa for his civil rights campaign before the First World War, wrote "A prince among men has passed away". Mounthatten could be moved to tears at the recollection of his assassination, 25 years later. The veteran French socialist Leon Blum spoke for millions when he said: "I never saw Gandhi. I do not know his language. I never set foot in his country and yet I feel the same sorrow as if I have lost someone near and dear."

What grade does the free state deserve? A middle second class, says Bhikhu Parekh

The Idea of India by Sunil Khilnani, Harnish Harnilton, £17.99

ndependent India's 50th anniversary offers a good opportunity to assess its achievements and failures. Its territorial integrity remains intact; unlike the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia it has defied all predictions about its disintegration. Democracy has struck roots: its brief suspension in the Seventies was decisively ended by a determined electorate. Liberalism, too, is deeply inscribed in India's major institutions, and the country remains firmly committed to individual rights.

It has so far elected two Muslim and one Sikh presidents, and has elected or appointed minority representatives to the most sensitive positions. After initial panic, the country has learnt to live with and even cherish its differences. Its cultural life displays remarkable vitality and its literary achievements have won international acclaim. When both the New Yorker and Granta devote special issues to Englishlanguage writing in India, Indians can rightly feel proud.

But India's failures are as depressing as its achievements are impressive. Nearly a third of its people live below the poverty line, and just over a third are illiterate. Although the hideous practice of untouchability was declared unlawful within two years of independence, it persists in subtle and crude forms. Some of India's minorities feel insecure, and fear the worst if the Hindu nationalists come to power — as seems increasingly likely.

Indian politics is heavily criminalised and thrives on corruption. The large middle class wallows in shallow consumerism and lacks a social conscience. India's higher education is in a shambles, and its creative output in philosophy and the social and natural sciences meagre. Its deeply colonised consciousness remains parasitic on the West. Overall, independent India's performance merits a middle second class.

How are India's successes and failures related, and how can they be explained? Sunil Khilnani's elegant and well-argued book addresses these and related questions. Although at places hurried and inconclusive, and somewhat over-committed to the modernist project, he tackles them with erudition and insight.

In Khilnani's view, India began well under its first prime minister. Jawaharlal Nehru was convinced that India needed a strong state both to hold the country together and to give it a coherent identity. He knew that the state had to be democratic, secular, culturally plural and committed to industrialisation. Accordingly he devoted his considerable energies to build-

ing up state institutions, consolidating the Congress Party, successfully selling his pluralist vision to the masses, and giving the

new state popular legitimacy.

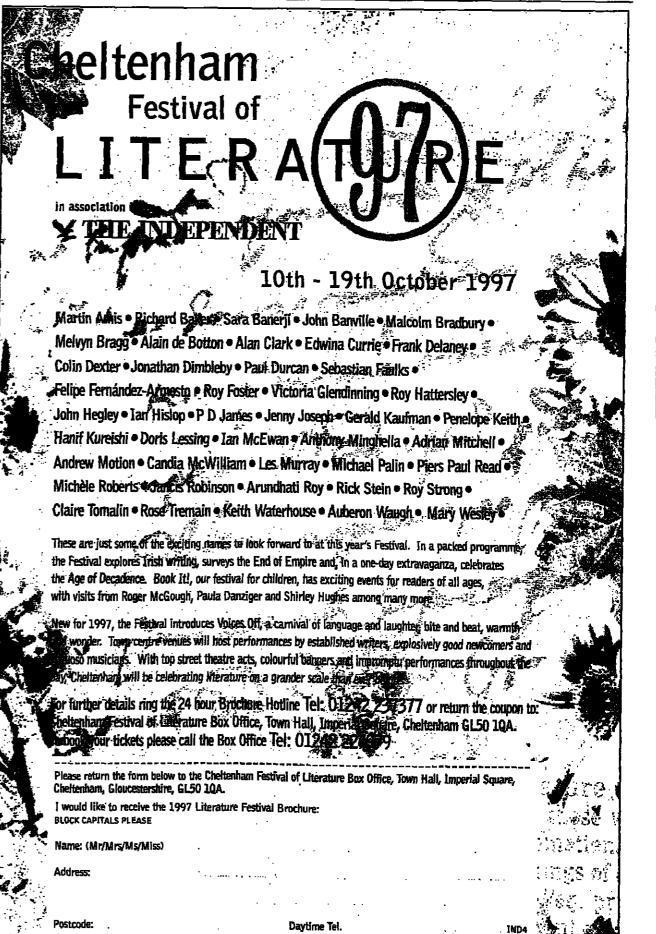
For Khilnani, Indira Gandhi's long rule represented a change for the worse, though not without redeeming features. She split Congress, politicised state institutions, undermined federalism and revived religious and caste identities. Relying on crude populist appeals, she undermined the role of mediating institutions and equated democracy with simple majority rule. Her economic strategy was incoherent, weakly implemented and heavily mortgaged to the cause of her own survival.

However, Mrs Gandhi's populism had the ironic consequence of deepening democracy. Once people were told that they were the ultimate and unmediated source of power, they used it in every way they could to pursue their goals. For Khilnani, Mrs Gandhi's successors including her son Rajiv – lacked even such vision as she had, and were largely content to stay in power by sectional appeals and devolving power to the regions. When the Indian economy became virtually bankrupt in the early 1990s, they turned to liberalisation as a panacea without much thought as to how it affected the poor and sucked the country into the global economy.

For Khilnani, unrestrained liberalisation, the rise of Hindu nationalism, pressures for a one-dimensional national identity and the failure to appreciate the centrality of the state constitute the major dangers facing the country today. He rightly suggests that the answer lies in a pluralist vision of India committed both to respect for its deep diversity and to coherent economic development.

Much of what Khilnani says is persuasive and deserves attention. I was disappointed that Nehru was not located in the modernist tradition, which had begun to develop from the early decades of the 19th-century onwards. As a result, he appears to come from nowhere and seems more original than he really was.

Although Khilnani is right to stress the importance of the state and democracy, he uncritically accepts the Western understanding of them and misses the complex ways in which Indians have given them distinctly Indian forms. As for Hindu nationalism, its belated entry on the scene needs an historical context. For nearly 25 years, Nehru's secularism was a regnant doctrine. Neglected and despised visions of Indian identity predictably struck back at the first available opportunity, with a militancy that augurs ill for the country. If they are to be tamed, the Nehruvian vision needs to be





Paperbacks



By Christopher Hirst & Emma Hagestadt

The Orchard on Fire by Shena Mackay (Minerva, £5.99) Mackay evokes the smell of discarded Woodbines and old-fashioned lipstick with an elegiac sensuality usually reserved for nightingales and autumn mists. But this is no run of the mill celebration of Fifties tat. Her portrait of a Kent village, and the growing friendship of two eight-year-old girls as they discover secret orchards, Lover's Lanes and dirty old men is laced with beady humour.

Alan Bennett: in a manner of speaking by Daphne Turner (Faber, £9.99) You can see why Bennett wasn't keen on being the subject of a full-scale lit crit study. "We hear a great deal about lavatories in the plays," comments Turner, before embarking on a po-faced analysis of the comic masterpiece. Forty Years On. Her perceptions are keen-eyed and intelligent - "his plays are constantly interested in people who are trapped and caged" - but the ironic humour which is central to Bennett's oeutre evaporates when placed under the critical microscope.

Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding (Picador, £5.99) Fans of Bridget Jones's weekly diary in *The* independent will be glad to find that one of the happier years in her life is now heading the paperback bestseller chart in novel form. Not that Bridget's metamorphosis from Home Alone singleton into the kind of woman men like to take on weekend mini-breaks happens overnight. Before she drives into the sunset with a nerd in a diamond-patterned sweater she has to get over her crush on Daniel Cleaver, the rogue male in the publishing house where she works. And lose half a stone before Christmas. And give up smoking.

Honey From a Weed by Patience Gray (Prospect, £12.99) Part memoir, part cook-book, this quirky classic is the fruit of a 30-year stint accompanying a sculptor around Italian and Greek marble quarries. No book plumbs deeper into the Mediterranean culinary tradition. Gray is wonderfully evocative about ingrédients and techniques - though it is doubtful how many readers will try Gummarieddi (young lamb's pluck cooked on the spit). In the section on lentils, the author finds room for a disquisition on farting in EngLit.

Jim Thompson: Omnibus 2 (Picador, £8.99) It would be hard to imagine a more pathetic bunch of low-lifes than the inhabitants of Jim Thompson's Fifties paperbacks. His door-to-door salesmen, hotel bell-boys and punchdrunk boxers are looking for any action they can get, but don't know what to do when the great-looking "babe" finally arrives. While the first Onuibus contained Thompson's bestknown novels, this volume makes available five more, including Sarage Night and A Hell of a Woman. Noir at its darkest ... and daftest.

Graceland: going home with Elvis by Karal Ann Marling (Harvard, £9.95) In this brilliant, if highly personal. guide to both the man and his home. Marling explains how the Preslev shrine differs from other places of tourist pilgrimage: "The house is full of things that we all have or used to have, or used to want, or hate." Though it is easy to scoff at Graceland's decor ("a violent Christmastime-lipstick-cherry-cokefire-engine-hellfire red") and the Polynesian-themed Jungle Den. Marling insists that Elvis was "the last great Dixie regionalist", on a par with William Faulkner.

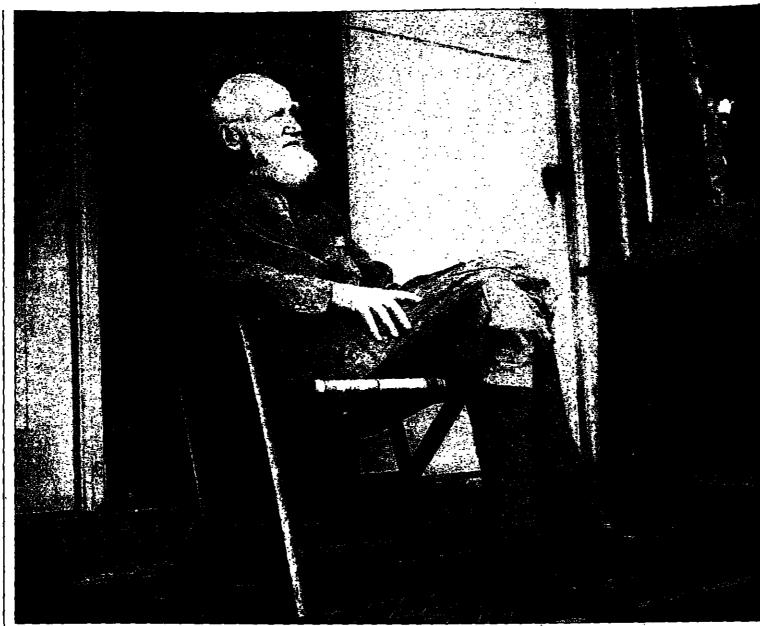
Audiobooks



Men in black are flavour of the month in spoken word releases. But you would be right in thinking that Men in Black (Hodder, 3hrs, £8.99), the audio novelisation of the box-office-breaking special effects movie, would be a waste of time. It is. Much better value, although similar in its lingering descriptions of zapping suspects to kingdom come, is The Good Guys Wear Black (Random House, 3hrs, £8.99). Written by Steve Collins about his experiences as a member of SO19, the Met's Special Firearms Wing, it is read convincingly by Tim Piggot-Smith.

Christina Hardyment

NEW AUTHORS PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED VPRTE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIP METON RD. LONDON 5W7 3DC



Knickerbocker glory: Shaw at rest and (below) at play

Man and superbore

hen Bernard Shaw died in 1950, aged 94, he was the most famous writer in the world. For as long as anyone could remember he had been the same white-bearded pantaloon, part sage, part jester, pouring out a cease-less torrent of paradoxical punditry on every subject under the sun from music and literature to politics and evolution, taking in vegetarianism, boxing, phonetics and philanthropy along the way. He was Tolstoy with jokes, a modern Dr Johnson, a universal genius who on his own modest reckoning put even Shakespeare in the shade.

When I was a boy he still cast a huge shadow. As a teenager. I bought and read all the plays that Penguin published ~ even the Shaw alphabet edition of Androcles and the Lion - and ploughed my way dutifully through the interminable prefaces. If I did not read Everybody's Political What's What and The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism, I certainly felt I ought to. I grew up believing Shaw the most brilliant figure of the century. I remember thinking that Michael Holroyd had landed the greatest bio-

graphical subject of them all. It took him - not surprisingly nearly 20 years to produce his first volume. But in that time, Shaw's stock has gone into steep decline. It is normal for literary reputations to dip after a writer dies; then they rise again as a new generation rediscovers him. In Shaw's case, it did not happen. Holroyd's three volumes, published between 1988 and 1991. were justly hailed as a work of extraordinary condensation and powerful interpretation. The only trouble was they did not sell. The whole enterprise had come to seem overblown. confess I was one of those who stuck at Volume One.

This single volume is therefore a welcome act of repacking. Holroyd's name is now printed in larger type than Shaw's, Chapter headings have been added, which make it more accessible. It deserves a new audi-

ence. But to label it "definitive" is misleading. Eight hundred pages may be enough for most readers, but how can 800 be more definitive than the original 1,300?

The problem with Shaw is that he wrote too much, but no acknowledged masterpiece. Most of what he wrote was essentially journalism: even his plays are journalism by other means. Tolstoy wrote as much nonsense, but he also wrote Anna Karenina and War and Peace. George Orwell's early novels are as didactic as Shaw's worst plays. But he, too, left two masterpieces, Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four, which is one reason we still read his journalism. (The other is the plain directness of his style, the antithesis of Shaw's exhausting bombast.)

Shaw's survival depends on a handful of his

Is the 'universal genius' worth reviving? Not bloody likely, argues John Campbell

Bernard Shaw: the one-volume definitive edition by Michael Holroyd, Chatto & Windus, £25

plays. Many more, like Farmy's First Play or The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles, have sunk without trace. But Pygmalion is doing the rounds again: there is a starry Heartbreak House on the way. Mrs Warren's Profession crops up quite regularly; Saint Joan is an enduring warhorse.

Yet these are period pieces, museum exhibits only, as the National Theatre's recent production of The Devil's Disciple cruelly proved. The fact is that you cannot do anything with a Shaw play except stage it. There is nothing between the lines, as there is in Ibsen or Chekhov, Heartbreak House,



supposedly "in the Russian manner", could not be further from Chekhov's aching comedies of unspoken longing. You could not translate Shaw to modern South Africa, as Janet Suzman has just triumphantly done with The Cherry Orchard. Checkhov's and Ibsen's characters can be acted in a hundred different ways: Shaw's are merely

Even Oscar Wilde's superficially trivial plays offer greater depths. Wilde and Shaw were contemporaries; both put much of their art into their lives. But, dying young and persecuted, Wilde wrote himself the better script to ensure his posthumous rehabilitation. He also took the precaution of leaving at least one perfect masterpiece plus a variety of other works (The Picture of Dorian Grey, his children's stories and his prison

writings) which seem certain to outlast anything of Shaw's. Both as a man and as a writer Oscar lives: GBS does not.

But GBS never really lived. He was a pantomime character whom Shaw fantasticated over 70 years to hide ... what? This is the heart of Holroyd's problem. During his lifetime. Shaw repelled biographers

by writing their books for them. He gave interviews to himself in the newspapers. He referred to himself habitually in the third person, Holroyd knows that he must penetrate this alibi.

His solution is to split Shaw into three people. "Sonny" is the insecure small boy in Dublin, uncertain of his parentage. He lacks his mother's love and grows up to seek a substitute in the world's applause and the chaste worship of a succession of strong women, mainly the actresses for whom he wrote his female roles. "Shaw" is the shadowy adult man behind the mask, and "GBS" the celebrated pantaloon.

This is clever but contrived. It leads Holrovd into complex constructions involving all three personae in a single sentence. He suggests that "the fastidious Shaw" was sometimes disgusted by "the

gyrations GBS went through to gain public attention". He quotes Shaw lamenting that "people think I am always joking". But the mask was too firmly fixed; the clown's plea to be taken seriously was just part of the performance.

Holroyd tracks Shaw's - or is it Sonny's? - relations with women indefatigably. But GBS conducted his affairs behind such smokescreen of ingenious verbosity, in desperation to keep sexuality at bay, that the reader loses patience. Better the healthy fornication of H G Wells. As for Shaw's 45-year marriage

to Charlotte Payne Townshend, he can shed little light on the inwardness of the partnership. It was a mariage blanc, though that did not stop Charlotte being jealous of his actresses; she was his nursemaid and mother-substitute, who seems to have spent

most of her time trying to stop him working. In her sixties, she found an unlikely confident in T E Lawrence, to whom she bared her soul, we are told, more than ever to her husband. But the daily routine of their domestic life still comes across - as GBS stage-managed it - as a Shavian farce.

The portrait only becomes human at the end. when the two old Shaws and the two old Webbs are increasingly drawn together as a quartet of dried up ancients, each longing to die before their partner. Shaw died last. On the page, as in life. death is a long time coming. and genuinely pathetic when it does. Yet Holroyd still gives GBS the last word: "Well, did I give a good performance?" He did; but it was only a performance.

INDEPENDENT CHOICE

AMERICAN POETRY by Lachlan Mackinnon

bout 10 years ago, a leading publisher told me that American poetry had become virtually unsaleable in this country, and that we should expect to see much less of it. It seemed to reflect a depressing intensification of our literary insularity, and one of the most encouraging features of the past three or four years has been a renewed interest in American writing. The four books reviewed here exemplify the range of what is becoming available.

Anthony Hecht is a formal, learned poet with a dark sense of humour. The first half of Flight among the Tombs (Oxford, £10.99) consists of 22 poems in which Death speaks as a variety of characters, among them a Mexican revolutionary and an Oxford don. As the Mexican, Death tells us that Wines of the great châteaux/ Have been

uncorked for you.

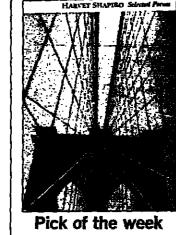
The reader is a rich gringo tourist. Death recommends
the quall. Which you'd do well to eat! Before your powers fail./ For I inaugurate/ A brand-new social order/ Six cold, decisive feet/ South of the border. The chill conclusion characterises most of this group, which tend to limit themselves by ending a touch too neatly.

The second section of this book. Proust on Skates,

contains 14 poems, mostly elegiac in feeling, mostly underpowered. This is a disappointing book from a major poet, but it is redeemed by one longer poem, "Death the Whore". From its opening lines - "Some thin grey smoke twists up against a sky! Of German silver in the sullen dusk/ From a small chimney among leafless trees" - we sense that the poet's imagination is fully engaged. This poem has the movement and the measure of some of Hecht's finest achievements, and will be read long after anything else here.

CK Williams was one of the poets whose work provoked the renewal of interest in American writing. Almost all the new poems in The Vigil (Bloodaxe, £7.95) are written in one form, consisting of very long, almost prosy lines which allow Williams to build detail and qualify his judgements like a novelist – almost like a slightly more rapid Henry James.
"Old Man" begins
"Special: Big Tus.

says the advertisement for a soft-core magazine on our neighbourhood newsstand. / but forget her breasts - a lush, fresh-lipid blonde, skin glowing gold. sprawls there. resplendent./ Sixty nearly, yet these hardly tangible, hardly better than harlots can still stir me." The poet moves from this commonplace experience to consider what his youth did to his



Harvey Shapiro: Selected Poems

erotic self, an incident in Israel, a photograph "in a book on pre-war Poland", death and his wife's beauty before returning to the photograph. It sounds ragged, but a tremendously clear logic leads to the ending:

"Vamp, siren, seductress, how much more she reveals in her glare of ink than she knows:/ how she incarnates our desperate human need for regard, our passion to live in beauty, to be beauty, to be cherished, by glances if by no more, of something like love, or love." Although there are some duff pieces here, and although the danger of relying on one form is that it is harder to remember individual poems clearly, this is a rich, ambitious, rewarding book. Carcanet is now at the forefront in publishing American

poets, and the new selections it offers of James Tate (Selected Poems, £9.95), and Harvey Shapiro (Selected Poems, £8.95) join a remarkable list. Both Tate and Shapiro remember an earlier poet, Theodore Roethke (1908-63). Tate's "Conjuring Roethke" begins "Prickle a lamb/giggle a yam/ beat a chrysanthemum/ out of its head/ with a red feather." This is a rather clumsy imitation of the side of Roethke's work which drew on nursery rhymes. Shapiro's "1949" begins with "Memories of Ted Roethke at Yaddo" where, "I came to wake him after my lunch, and he would rise, vomit/ mix a pitcher of martinis and we/ headed for the tennis courts." Remembering an early poem's rejection, "Roethke's eyes filled with tears -/ his poem already anthology famous but the wound/open still. The Garden Master but/ tendril-tender all his short life." Although also echoing Roethke, Shapiro does so with an economy and accuracy which put Tate's poem to shame.

This difference is everywhere apparent. James Tate is a much-praised, prize-winning joky surrealist. Less deft than John Ashbery, he writes poems whose lack of evident content is in the end extremely tedious. This book shows us what an institutionalised avant-gande can come to. Harvey Shapiro, on the other hand, begins in a slightly too literary way but, over the years, comes to a lucidity and candour I found entirely gripping. A typical example is Questions": The idiot sound of someone's stereo

in the apartment below. The bass thudding like something caught in a trap. People live in that racket the way I live with my questions, the things I don't know. For example, an image of the successful life, or what is the good, or how can I get from here to where I want to be, and where is that. It is in the hope of hearing such a voice that we read American - or any - poetry at all.

ore Vidal almost bought me once, in a manner of speaking. A few years back, amid one of the New Statesman's periodic cash-flow emergencies, a rumour swept the staff that the Prince of Put-downs had gazed out from his eyrie on the Amalfi coast, spotted the magazine's distress and decided to put his hand down into his pocket to bail it out.

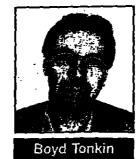
Things turned out otherwise, but the story sounded credible. Age (72 this year) has not withered Vidal's huge appetite for making mischief in both literature and politics. In a coda to his latest batch of essays and reviews, Vingin Islands (André Deutsch, £17,99), he recounts a night spent with the British party machines during this spring's election campaign. As the evening wears on, he spots that "the mood of the Labourites was paranoid, particularly the handsome blonde girls in black suits with curled lips and flashing eyes". How come I missed them? Meanwhile, the man reputed to be "Blair's Rasputin"



week books

exudes "the insolent manner of one born to the top rung but three". Yes, Gore's back in town: lefter than left, but posher than posh as well. Call him a Bollinger Bolshevik, and he would probably send the insult back unless it

In a summer that has stripped American letters of two great Romantic rebels - Allen Ginsberg and now William S Burroughs - it's heartening to see a purely Classical troublemaker in good, if not quite top, form. (Vidal called his wonderful collected essays United States; so Virgin Islands counts as a sort of minor dependency.) In fact,



the gifted US generation that found its voice in the first postwar decade has thrived for half a century on novelty and notoriety. Among the other survivors, Norman Mailer and Saul Bellow both have new work out within the next few weeks, while the slightly younger John Updike has just invited Net-heads to collaborate on a whodunit. Always cattily conscious of his peers' merits and defects, Vidal

upends a vat of spite over Updike's sleck head halfway through this book. In a venomous attack reprinted from the TLS, he spits that "there is no received opinion that our good rabbit does not hold with passion The causus belli here is no mere

literary rivalry, but Updike's culpable refusal to oppose the Vietnam War. "Updike is for the president, any president, right or wrong". Unpatriotic Gore, in contrast, takes his seditious side as seriously (and as playfully) as ever. It keeps his prose aloft and mind alert even when the name-dropping, back-biting Hot Gossip act begins to bore him as well as us.

One moment, he will tell us for the umpteenth time that he once ran 20,000 votes ahead of his old chum Jack Kennedy on the Democratic ticket in a Congressional election in upstate New York; the next, he employs the Freedom of Information Act to detail the exact amount spent by the US military to maintain its 31,351 personnel as a

friendly occupation force in the "not-sovirginal" British Isles. As always, the change of masks is weirdly effective - as if Peter Ustinov sporadically mutated

into Noam Chomsky (or vice versa). On this evidence, Vidal will carry on on bitching and teasing well past the looming miliennium. (In a neat aside about European integration during the last one, he points out that "if Charlemagne was the Jean Monnet of the 800s, Otto III was the Jacques

Delors of the 900s".)
His long-time British publisher, alas, has already pegged out in all but name. In the sort of transatlantic coup that Vidal often mocks, the great name of André Deutsch - which now has no connection with its founder - belongs to a US video conglomerate, VCI. The firm plans to publish almost nothing except downmarket sport and showbiz titles. So Virgin Islands may well prove to be the last good book ever to sail under Deutsch's flag. As Gore really ought to say before too long: QED.

travel & outdoors



As the British mainland's most westerly arm, Ardnamurchan is off the tourist map. But for those who make the journey, writes Steve Crawshaw, the peninsula's natural beauty is matched only by its tranquillity



t seemed that Scottish holidays and I were not destined to be a happy match. Six years ago, what promised to be a blissful fortnight on the island of Arran was inter-rupted on the second day by the radio headlines, which woke us with annoyingly dramatic news. "The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, has been overthrown in a coup,' heard through my half-sleep. I was responsible for The Independent's coverage of Russia at the time. I told myself for as long as I could that it was probably just a dream. Eventually, however, I was forced to confront reality. By the time I stumbled downstairs, a message was ying on the kitchen table, "Please phone office urgently." Arran, it was nice to know you.

This time, the planned Scottish holiday began with almost equally daunting omens. I fractured my skull just 10 days before the holiday began. When we embarked on the journey. I was still suffering from a constant headache like a bad hangover. I did not, to be blunt, expect it to be much of a holiday. But then, I had reckoned without Ardnamurchan.

If you have not heard of Ardnamurchan, join the large club. The peninsula does not enjoy (or suffer from) the high profile of many of the Scottish islands and large chunks of the Scottish mainland. Some of its distinguishing points are mere curiosities. It is the westernmost point of the British mainland - 20 miles further west than Land's End. It is geologically renowned: one vil-lage is sited on a solidified mass of liquid lava, inside the giant "ring-dyke" amphitheatre of an extinct volcano. There is an abundance of prehistoric standing stones and the like.

Above all, though, it is the spirit of Ardnamurchan that keeps the devotees enthusiastic. The poet Alasdair Maclean (no relation to Mr Guns of Navarone) brought a small dose of notquite-fame with his Night Falls On Ardnamurchan. "I have always looked on the ferry that crosses the Narrows of the Linnhe Loch at Corran [from the mainland to the Ardnamurchan peninsula] as a kind of mobile decompression chamber," he wrote, "where various kinds of pollution were drained from the blood and I was

fitted to breathe pure air again." Even the first-time visitor is touched by something of this. After crossing from the mainland, south of Fort William, the single-track road winds its way through the woods that line the shore of Loch Sunart, with views alternately cosy and grand. Moorland and woodland, mountain

PENINSULA PATHS Getting there

From most parts of Britain, the easies place to start is Glasgow (accessible from London on a £25 special by Virgin Trains, 0345 991995). From Glasgow Queen Street, ScotRail runs four trains a day on the West Highland Line via Fort William to Lochailort. the closest station to Ardnamurchan Point, for £34.90 return, Call 0345 484950 for times. The closest place to rent a car is Fori William, where Budget (01397 702500) has

Feorag House in Glenborrowdale (01972 500248) is a small hotel with its own little seal-inhabited bay. Dinner, bed and breakfast costs £59 in the high season or £49 in the low season. For bed and breakfast only the price is £39 per night in the high season and £29 in the low. Kilcamb Lodge Hotel (01967 402257) in

and seashore, and an astonishing variety of flowers, animals and birds. And almost no people.

Outsiders have sometimes played a disproportionately important (and rarely benevolent) role, in the peninsula's fate. Alan Clark, he of the coven and irreverent Diaries, boasts that his family once owned the entire peninsula among many other properties, you understand: "A pheasant shoot in Suffolk, a house in Berkeley Square, a villa at Cap d'Ail on the Riviera, and the whole of the Ardnamurchan peninsula, some 330,000 acres in Argyll." Even today, the legacy of the big old landowners is much resented. The 19th-century clearances when crofters were evicted from their homes with a determination that would have impressed Radovan Karadzic – affected Ardnamurchan as badly as anywhere in the Highlands.

And yet, despite the bitter history and the abandoned hamlets hauntingly scattered across the peninsula, today the visitor feels only a relaxed tranquillity. Tobermory, on Mull, is just half an hour by ferry across from Kilchoan. By ordinary standards, it is an idyllic, quiet little fishing port. By comparison with Ardnamurchan, Tobermory seems infested with crowds. You can walk for miles at a time, even in midStrontian, just before you reach the Ardnamurchan, costs between £69.50 and £85 per person per night, including a fourcourse evening meal. For self-catering accommodation, Steading Holidays (01972) 510262) has properties throughout the peninsula and Ardnamurchan Estate (01972 510208) has a number of properties for

Kilchoan Tourist Information Centre (open Easter to October, 01972 510222) or the information centre in Fort William (open all year, 01397 703781).

Exploring Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Moldart and Morar (Harlequin Press); Alasdair Maclean, Night Falls on Ardnamurchan (Penguin): John Prebble, The Highland Clearances (Penguin).

summer, and hardly meet a soul. Ten-year-old Ania and her friend Dunya fell in love with beaches like the white shell-sands at Sanna, where they could swim, build sandcastles, and explore the rockpools at the foot of heathercovered hills while we watched the orangebeaked oystercatchers beating their way to and fro with their liquid burbling cries. If you're lucky, you might see otters, which are common (the peninsula is just down the coast from where Gavin Maxwell lived when he wrote Ring of Bright Water). Or, like us, you can get distracted by a fearless mink, or stumble across a fearful wildcat. On the quiet waters of Loch

Despite Ardnamurchan's bitter history, today the peninsula is a tranquil haven for the few people who visit PHOTOGRAPH: ANGUS JOHNSON

watched seals play and tease each other splashing on and off rocks a few feet from the boat. The walks here are no less dramatic for being undemanding. You can stroll along the old crofters' path from Ockle or Kentra Bay to the 'singing sands" - squeaky underfoot, hence the name - of Gortenfearn. On the way, we stopped for picnics beside mountain streams, hidden in the bracken and heather, with spectacular views across to Skye.

Obtaining reliable information for local walks can be difficult. A brochure (Exploring Ardnamurchan) claims to give all necessary information. In reality, you will have to hope for extra guidance from locals or from the Ordnance Survey. Sometimes the maps help; sometimes they don't. Thus, there is a more or less easy path up Ben Hiant, the Holy Mountain. The path, beginning on the mountain's eastern side, is well known - but not marked on the maps. From the summit, there are commanding views east along Loch Sunart, south down the Sound of Mull, and north and west past the Egyptian-style lighthouse at Ardnamurchan Point to the distant outline of the Cuillins on Skye. The red deer all around are disturbed by nothing and nobody except that familiar feature of all Britain's wildest places - the occasional, deafening roar of a low-flying RAF plane.

Ardnamurchan isn't the place for those who want to conquer impressive-sounding peaks. It has not a single Munro - nor, by the same token, any crowds of Munro-baggers. Its only selling point is its sheer natural beauty. If you go there with skull intact, it might even be better than it Sunart, where we went mackerel fishing, we seemed to the visitor with a cracked head.

elcome to Britain. Now sod off." If, by some chance, you recognise that phrase, it is not because the British Tourist Authority has come up with a catchy new Liam Gallagherstyle slogan to promote the UK. It is because I wrote it three years ago, when testing the welcome we offer to visitors. The location I chose was Gatwick airport, and the perception of most new arrivals endeavouring to travel to central London was summed up by a couple of Americans who said "We're

New York." Britain's hole in its tourism account deepened this week, with the latest figures revealing a four per cent drop in both the number of visitors and the amount they spend. We spend far more on holidays abroad than we receive from overseas visitors to the UK - a deficit of about £10m a day. The last government chose an unusual way to try to promote tourism

used to this crap - we're from

in Britain: cutting funding for the BTA, which seeks to entice visitors to the UK.

Under the new government, an equally perverse course has been chosen: closing down the tourist information centre at Gatwick airport. From the end of September, Britain's second busiest gateway will become even less welcoming to overseas visitors. The closure of the bureau

speaks volumes about the muddle surrounding tourism promotion in Britain. Tom Clarke, the minister responsible for tourism, did not take the decision to shut the office himself. Neither did the BTA. "It wasn't our decision," says the English Tourist Board. Gatwick airport itself was not responsible; indeed, the airport provides the site free. Finally, I tracked down the man who pulled the plug: Fred Cubbage, leader of a shadowy group in Tunbridge Wells called the South East England Tourism Board.



Simon Calder

Finding the number of the Dept of Culture, Media and Sport included the comment: 'Oh, culture. I

thought you

said torture'

Mr Cubbage turns out to be a reasonable man. He says his decision was taken "with the utmost regret", but says his organisation could not afford to meet the £1,000-a-week cost of the service. And, with fewer than one in 10 inquiries at Gatwick about the patch he covers, why should he blow his budget on the bureau?

The job of the SEETB slogan, "England's warmest welcome" - is to promote Kent, Surrey and Sussex: to extol the virtues of East Grinstead and West Hoathly rather than to help people who want to find a train to Torquay or a B&B in Bridlington. Now the four staff at the

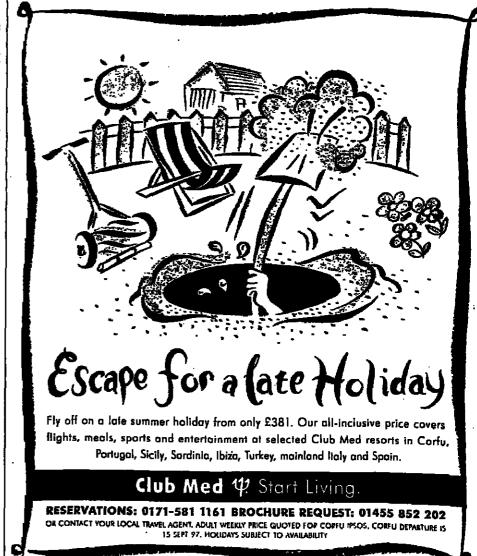
airport are to lose their jobs, and new arrivals are to lose the chance of help and guidance. The task of running it, says Mr Cubbage, became "more onerous because of the reduction of central funding". So having followed the trail all the way down to a side street in Tunbridge Wells, it now seems to be leading back to Whitehall and the desk of Mr

Clarke, the tourism minister. A spokeswoman for his office says: "Choices have to be made about the allocation of resources, and this bureau does not represent an efficient use of resources, so

unfortunately it has to close." Countries such as France, Holland and Spain, which offer excellent tourist information bureaux for arriving passengers, must be delighted.

Should you feel strongly enough to complain to the minister about the closure, don't call directory inquiries. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport, which covers tourism, is unknown to British Telecom. My quest to find the number included the priceless comment: "Oh, culture. I

thought you said torture." After supervisors and managers joined the operator in trying vainly to find the number of the government ministry, BT gave up. By other, more devious means, I discovered the ex-directory number to dial: 0171-211 6000.



Are we nearly there

Where children can be king of the castle

Scotland's rock of ages

are more exciting Scottish castles; it's

all so huge and spread-out that it's hard

best plan would be to start the day at

Holyrood, walk up the Royal Mile

with all its monuments and historic

buildings and end up with the castle as

to relate one bit to another. I think the

agnificently sited on a steep volcanic crag in the heart of Scotland's capital, Edinburgh Castle both dominates the city skyline and represents millennia of history and myth. There was a Bronze Age settlement on Castle Rock 3,000 years ago, the Angles seized "Din Eiden" as they swept north from Northumbria in 638 AD and by the late 11th century Scottish kings had built a massively defended palace on the cliffs. Since then the castle has been so frequently bombarded, remodelled and extended that the little Romanesque chapel of St Margaret is the oldest structure to survive intact. Fragments of medieval towers now lie entombed within the batteries and barracks, palatial halls and prison vaults, hospitals and magazines that reflect the castle's ever-changing role.

Though still a working garrison, the castle is now Scotland's most popular tourist attraction, with more than a million visitors each year. In summer there are often lengthy queues, particularly to see the Stone of Destiny. which, since its return from Westminster this year, is now displayed alongside the sceptre, crown and sword of Scotland's sovereigns. Mons Meg, a huge medieval siege-gun, is another popular attraction - and further weaponry is on display in the Great Hall. The castle also houses a shrine to Scotland's war-dead

for many visitors the appeal lies less in such specifics as in the general atmosphere and setting. The views, across the city roof-scape and stretching from the Pentlands to the Highland Line, are breathtaking, while the towers, battlements and ancient buildings should satisfy the most romantic of imaginations.

During the Edinburgh Festival (which begins today) the castle forms a wonderfully dramatic backdrop to the Military Tattoo, which takes the place on Esplanade. Every

Days out: history, mystery and a dash of the macabre make Edinburgh Castle a family must. By Hamish Scott

day, however, there is a somewhat is a good idea, because the children can smaller-scale ceremony on the battle- listen to it while they're waiting in the ments when a field-gun is fired at one o'clock before an audience of tourists with hands clasped to their ears. Audible across the city and far away in Fife, the gunshot is more than merely a time-signal. It is the slow, symbolic heart-beat of the citadel.

The visitors Helen Stewart took her children Mary

(12) and Robin (10). Helen: The views are quite fantastic. You get a perspective of the city that you just don't find from anywhere else. It's certainly a place that I'd bring any visitor to Edinburgh, just to get a feel

in the queue. They did Mons Meg very well, with a film all about its history you could watch before you went in to see it, and the tape's much better than going "Quick March" round with a guide, because you can switch it off when it queues and you can pick your own route round without following the crowds. All the same, I wouldn't want to come here gets boring. All the same I did find the history quite confusing, because the cas-tle's been built on and built on, so you in the rain, and it's not a place to bring only get the really early stuff by going To be honest I'm not sure why quite so many people come here when there down into the vaults.

The T-shirts are good. I could have spent an hour in the gift shop, but I didn't think much of the cafeteria. You'd be better off bringing your own lunch.

Robin: I liked the prison the best because it was all wet and dark and

Mary: The best bit was when everybody jumped when the one o'clock gun was swords in the big hall back home so I fired. The crown jewels were quite good and I'm glad the Stone of Destiny was back, but I did feel a bit processed in the big day touck may be and no one could come in my room. Mons Meg was back, but I did feel a bit processed in the big day touck may be a sword in the big day touck may be a sword in the big day touck may be a sword in the big day touck may be and no could whirl them round my head and no one could come in my room. Mons Meg was back, but I did feel a bit processed in the big day touck my head and no one could come in my room. Mons Meg was back, but I did feel a bit processed in the big day touck my head and no one could come in my room. was huge - I could have got down the barrel; in fact you could probably fit your whole family in there if you wanted to. Really, most of it was good, but there aren't all that many inside bits and if it was raining it would be absolutely awful. I'm not sure if the Stone of Destiny is the real one. There was a story in Macbeth about it being swapped. Or maybe that was in Hamish Macheth. I am quite interested in Scottish history. but we don't do much of it at school.

> Edinburgh Castle (0131 275 9846) is open 1 April-30 Sept daily, 9.30am-fpm; 1 Oct-31 March, 9.30am-5pm. Admission: adults £5.50, children £1.50. Facilities: the cafeteria sells hot dishes, salads and sandwiches.

> > are quite limited, with none available on upper levels of the castle. Access: cobbles and steep walkways can cause difficulties for disabled visitors, but a courtesy vehicle is avail-

> > able and carers are admitted free of

adults and three children or, to pay separately, entrance costs £8.50 for adults, £5.50 for children and is free for the under fives. The castle is currently open from 10am to 5pm daily.

Stirling Castle (01786 450000). If you approach Stirling from the west, the castle dominates the skyline for miles. Like Edinburgh Castle it sits above the town on a lofty perch. This castie, however, outdoes Edinburgh's efforts and looks even more spectacular - largely because of the flamess of the surrounding landscape. The history here is also dramatic stuff particularly as the castle was the focus of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Visitors can wander through rooms where James VI and Mary Queen of Scots stayed. Children might

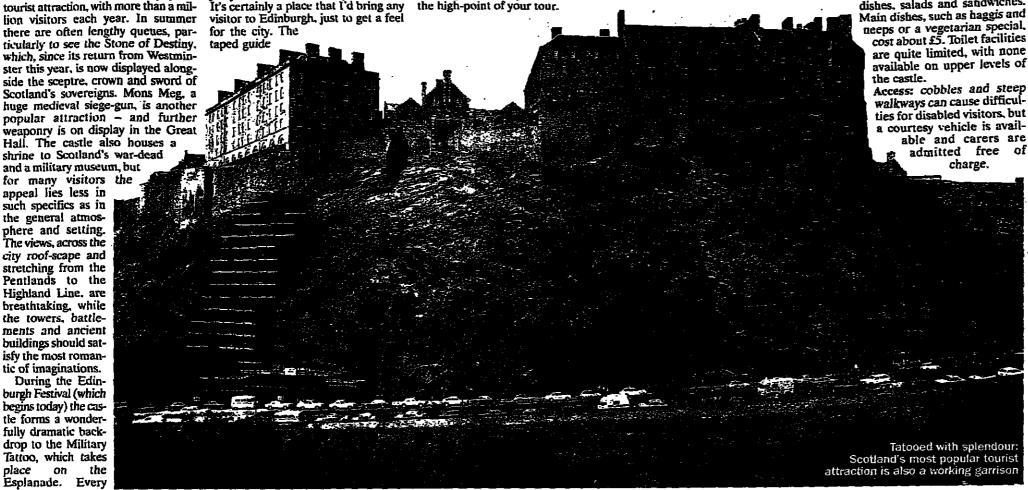
like to see the current exhibition of 17thcentury kitchens or just dart through passageways exploring the castle's nooks and crannics. The castle is open from 9.30am to 6pm (with last admission at 5.15pm) and costs £4 for adults, £2.50 for senior citizens, £1.20 for children over five. under fives free. Leeds Castle near Maidstone in Kent (01622 765400) dates back to the 8th century. The castle stands on a moated island and the 500 acres of surrounding grounds include a maze, aviaries, vinevards, plant shops and restaurants. Children may like to explore the underground

> Warwick Castle (01926 495 421) offers visitors a glimpse into castle life through the ages with historical wax figures set in a number of different scenes. The prison towers, the ramparts, the dungeons, the armoury and the torture chambers are all open to view. Allow at least three hours to make sure you see everything. This weekend entrance will also include a jousting display in the grounds. A family ticket (two adults, two children) costs £27. Otherwise entrance prices are £9.95 for adults and £5.95 for four to 16 year olds. Opening hours are 10am-6pm, last admission at 5.30pm.

grotto with its tunnels, caves and cascading

waterfalls. Family tickets are £23 for up to two

Powis Castle (01938 554338) near Welshpool, is a rosy-coloured medieval castle originally built by Welsh princes in around 1200. The castle houses one of the finest collections of paintings and furniture in Wales and a collection of Indian artwork displayed in the Clive Museum. However, the real attraction is the gardens which drip down over terraces past an orangery and an aviary to a woodland wilderness. Childrens' garden and castle quiz sheets are available for 25p and entrance costs are £6 for adults, £3 for children or £15 for a family. The castle is open daily except Mondays (although it is open on Bank Holiday Monday) between noon and 4pm and the gardens are open on the same days between 11am and 5.30pm.





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We nearly there

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Not just a pretty face, Painswick Post Office earns its stamp of approval, writes Simon Calder



Philately gets you everywhere

A46 is a heavyweight; it begins in the city of Bath and bisects Britain on a long, winding course to Grimsby. But its finest moment occurs in a corner of the Cotswolds, when it assumes the identity of New Street, Painswick.

crumbly old village of 3,000 souls, was bestowed because it is Engassess this stamp of approval for Painswick: "One of the pleasantest that it occupies an older building places in the world". That wasn't the lady who runs the tourist desk in the village library – it was George III. who was especially fond of the Cotswold stone quarried hereabouts.

spooned on and baked to the shade ened beams writhe beneath the of honey. Posing cutely on a curving hillside, Painswick meets all the Sharp angles with a hint of wigwam criteria for an archetypal Cotswold village. Yet it possesses qualities well beyond the merely picturesque. That odd-house-out on New

Street, for a start. By the year 1478, the local squire Pain Fitzjohn had already donated his name to the village, before falling

mong main roads, the in battle against the Welsh. Colum- muddle of stonework, stationery bus had yet to venture to the Americas, and the postcode "GL6 6XH" was still 500 year away from being coined. But in that year the hold, half-timbers of Westhaven House took shape. The first-class residence is now better known as Painswick Post Office, and is celebrated on a If you are not familiar with the stamp issued this week. The honour land's first post office, in the sense than any other.

Like the postcode, the new stamp (above, left) barely does the place justice. The real thing (above, right) weight of the roof and the years. about them hoist the eye upwards, to the Norwich Union firemark on the broadest cross-beam. In the days before Postman Pat and Fireman Sam were public concerns, these devices indicated which buildings

were worth saving.

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new stamp takes pride of place, with a note that the Royal Mail will be visiting next Tuesday in order to process first-day covers. This week is one for the album in Painswick; the village festival takes place today and tomorrow.

The next attraction to get sorted in Painswick is the fairest churchyard in the Cotswolds. The sheep which speckled the hillsides of Gloucestershire produced the finest English wool, which for a few centuries made Painswick's wool merchants among the wealthiest people is much less orderly than its depic- in Britain. They ensured their inter- at the Country Elephant, next to the a bowling green. Odd little out- which the town's stout redbrick Post In the 200 years since he said that, tion, with overflowing window boxes ment was of the highest calibre by post office. But the latest addition the raw, rough rock that is spilling scarlet, white and purple commissioning increasingly elabo-Painswick's motif has mellowed to blooms from beneath prim white rate (and competitive) memorials in the texture of icing on a sponge, frames. Above the porch, black- the grassy acre surrounding St Mary's Church.

A bestilted cottage totters above the lych gate into the churchyard. Bowing to pass beneath it, you emerge amid a rural jostle. One component is a forest of masonry, resembling a haul of treasure chests The other competitor is a consor-Inside, the shop is a pleasing them, standing in neat ranks but north, around Buenos Ayres.

occasionally melting into each other and sweets. A giant version of the to form voluminous barricades of the deepest green, separating the tombs of local grandees such as William Hogg, a Gratuitous ator, Charles Hyett, who moved Preacher who died in 1800: "It is here for the "good airs". What incredible the sums of money he expended in charity", asserts his headstone.

Despite the decline in wool, money has not forsaken Painswick altogether. Any cyclist feels intimidated by kerb-to-kerb Rovers, of the Land and Range varieties. The price tags at the Fiery Beacon art gallery address themselves to the sorts of well-heeled folk who dine to the catering repertoire, Bertram's "a case with rooms" across from for a chicken baguette that seemed to contain an entire bird, accompanied by a wheelbarrow's worth of chips and a gallon of tea.

Even allowing for refined good looks befitting an English rose, the village sustains an improbable range spiked with a few stray pyramids. of restaurants and tea rooms. The reason Painswick appears on so many tium of yew trees, precisely 99 of mental maps lies hidden a little to the

This, as you may gauge from the spelling, is not the Argentinian capis now Painswick House by its cre-summer air whispered through overcould be just another pretentious pile belonging to the minor aristocracy is transformed by the grounds around it. During the brief English flowering of Rococo in the 1740s, Mr Hyett imported the asymmetric aspirations of the European movement and planted them in his garden. The curves of paths and pools are assigned into a swooping gully, with the only flat patch devoted to

around which the visitor swirls. the church) charged me only a fiver After a couple of hours in this most Painswick Post Office is open 9amverdant of follies, you need another cup of tea.

> towards Stroud. You topple down end of November. Stepping Stone Lane and clamber The Painswick Local History Society up the other side to the Painswick publishes, 'Painswick: Time Chart of Old Road, clinging like a contour a Cotswold Village' by Carl Moreland, high above the valley. This used to FRGS, available locally for £5.95.

be a Via Regia, a royal way. Last Wednesday, as bees idly batted from ital. It is the name chosen for what one flower to the next, and the heavy grown grass, you could find yourself in complete agreement with George III. Yet Prince Charles, a resident of nearby Highgrove, could be drawn into a battle to preserve his ancestor's vision. The local council wants to sprinkle more than a thousand new homes along the valley. As Duff Hart-Davis has reported in these pages, plans for the development

are alarmingly advanced. In Stroud, you re-join the A46 and re-enter the real world: one in buildings pop up, mimicking the Office has been closed down. Orient: they serve as eccentricities Plainly, it wasn't pretty enough.

1pm and 2-5.30pm, but closed on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons Across from the churchyard, the and all day on Sunday. Painswick village cascades towards the Rococo Garden (01452 813204) Painswick Valley, which proceeds to opens 11am-5pm - daily in August, lilt in an entrancingly pretty fashion then Wednesdays to Sundays until the

Men of letters

By Jennifer Rodger

postman's job A offers a nice little side-line in gratuitous spying on others. A novelist, of course, recreates such life on paper. So it is no surprise that for a number of writers, being a postman was their bread and butter in more ways than one.

Anthony Trollope was Clerk to the Surveyor of the South Western District of the Post Office in the 1850s. It was Trollope who initiated the design of the first Royal mail box and bullied customers into cutting holes into their doors so that the post man didn't have to ring twice.

American author. William Faulkner was a post master in the town of Oxford, Mississippi. Indeed this was the fictional setting for much his work. Hinting at the slow and introspective life of a postman (and writer), be described Oxford as where "the past is not dead, it isn't even past".

After his days in Burma and his stint down and out, George Orwell tried his hand at running a grocers shop and sub post office in Hertfordshire during the mid Thirties. The enterprise was not a success, however, the former shop is now a bijou residence that was recently sold for more than £250,000.

Rising novelist Stephen Blanchard (author of Gagarin and I, and Wilson's Island) works in a Clapham sorting office in South East London. "It provides me with a routine, purpose and gives me time to write. I'm quite good at it, too, he says.

Frank McCourt won this year's Pulitzer prize for his childhood memoirs Angela's Ashes. Towards the end of the book he records his experiences as a Limerick telegram boy in the Forties - a job that ultimately enabled him to escape an existence of relentless poverty in

Ireland and start a new

life in the States.

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very traveller begins to explore the world with a trip to the post office, and these hubs of communication keep cropping up along the way. You collect the form for your first passport from your local one, and thereafter post offices remain hugely important.

Like railway stations and frontier posts,

post offices comprise a necessary part of any journey. And whether you pop in to buy a postcard stamp, or stand in line for hours while you wait for your chance to find that no one has bothered to send you a poste restante missive, some are attractions in their own right.

Dublin

That jaunty little figure, frozen in the act of wheeling from Earl Street North into

O'Connell Street, is James Joyce. The author's statue stands just across the road from the symbolic heart of Irish nationalism: the General Post Office. Around 1816, when the stout Doric columns were hoisted from the drudge of what was then Sackville Street. Dublin was just another British provincial city. A century later, in the Easter Rising of 1916, the proclamation of the Republic of Ireland was read from the steps of the well-proportioned

neo-classical façade. The interior was wrecked in the

subsequent siege. Today, it comfortably combines the status of nationalist icon and purveyor of postal products. The nation's largest tricolour flutters above it, splashing green, orange and white into the sky above the street which has since taken the name of the liberation hero Daniel O'Connell.

Washington DC

The American capital is home to two fine ex-post offices, each of them a fully fledged tourist attraction - and, like most things in Washington, offering free admission.

The Old Post Office presides over Pennsylvania Avenue, a 399ft granite fortress whose innards have been scooped out and replaced with a vast, airy atrium and a dozen places to eat, including Chinese, Indian and Japanese. The building is in the care of the

National Parks Service, and a be-Stetsoned ranger will take you in the glass-sided, vertigopumping lift to the belitower at the top, for the second-best vista in Washington (the first being from the slender needle of the Washington

Monument, piercing the western sky). Look in the opposite direction and you see an overbearing hunk of a building perched beside Union Station. This Beaux Arts palace took over from the Old Post Office as the capital's main mailroom, but itself fell victim to federal budget cuts and the notion that

Americans did not need to send letters in style. After many years of abandonment, it has now re-opened as the latest addition to the Smithsonian repertoire of museums. The National Postal

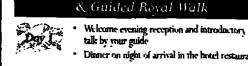
Museum traces, with a degree of levity, the tale of the US Mail from Pony Express to automated sorting. But as the hands-on computer prints out your pre-addressed postcards, you can't help thinking that while the 20th century was the preserve of the post, electronic

Dublin Post Office PHOTOGRAPH: MAXWELLS communications in the 21st century will consign mail to the museum permanently.

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Until 1975, the staff at the US Embassy in Saigon had it easy. They could just nip two blocks south to South Vietnam's finest post office, which stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the city's cathedral. Unlike the Embassy (a concrete jumble of defences, abandoned on the last day of April 1975) and South Vietnam (ditto), the Post Office is thriving. The French took control of Saigon in 1861 and the post office shows the regime at its prime, a Poste that would not look out of place in Lyon. Inside, a map of "Indochine" shows how the old colonial order held sway over the entire region. Dominating every transaction these days, however, is a huge, beaming portrait of Ho Chi Minh.







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Customs and exercise

That summer: in 1951 Elizabeth Candlish cycled across the borders of post-war paranoia in Europe

customs' post between Holland and Germany wasn't part of the plan. We meant to cross the border, and perhaps find the youth hostel in Aachen. But it turned out that the hostel was being rebuilt. Besides, we were two very wet and hedraggled British teenagers, and the customs men were perhaps just a little bored that day in the summer of 1951...

world of us!

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ou like from

95 a year.

My friend Margaret had a German penpal in Heidelberg, so to Heidelberg we would go, cycling. We took a tent (neither of us had camped before) and home-made sleeping bags. From our homes in St Andrews, Fife, we caught a train to London, and from there took a coach to Dover where we retrieved the bikes that we'd sent on ahead of us. As we pedalled our way off the boat at Ostend it was a daunting thought that we'd never cycled further than 20 miles at a stretch.

By the time we reached that frontier post we'd been six days on the road, often in rain. Campsites as we know them now had not yet been invented, and we'd camped on small Belgian farms, twice sleeping snugly in a barn. We'd been invited into spotless farm kitchens and had met whole families, usually three generations, speaking a dialect that our schoolgirl French and German could not decipher, but somehow we communicated.

The French told us about the war and about the liberation, and they wanted to ask about Britain - why were we still rationed? Why had the British voted Churchill out of office - he won the war, didn't he? Everywhere our wet things were taken off to be dried and cans of hot water produced: payment was firmly refused. In the mornings we'd be waved off, with pressing invitations to come again on our return journey.

Our route took us briefly into the Netherlands, to visit friends in Maastricht, then we headed for the German border. Back home, some people had warned us against going into Germany. After all, the war was not so far in the past. Margaret's uncle was a detective at a Dutch Insurance firm from Echt on Scotland Yard: if in trouble, he said, we their annual outing. They would stop at were to go to the military police - and of Cologne on their homeward way. Meancourse he himself could be contacted at Whitehall one-two-one-two.

We reached Vaals, at the Dutch-German frontier, before 4pm, once again wet and rather miserable. As usual, there were two barriers, and two sets of offices to go through, and our passports were stamped in both. We were leaving Holland, so we were not of much interest to the Dutch. But we were entering Germany, and the inspector of immigrants wanted to know our plans. Camping? In this weather? Better to make for the youth hostel in Aachen - he would telephone to book us a place. And that was how we heard that it was being rebuilt the war, you know...

The inspector made up his mind to befriend us. There was a hostel in Vaals, the border at Vaals.

pending the night in the a Dutch hostel: we could go there. And he had another suggestion; we should send our bicycles ahead by rail to Cologne, and next day he would arrange a lift for us. It was no problem to find lifts at the frontier. Why, only that day three Aus-

tralian girls got one for a hundred miles.

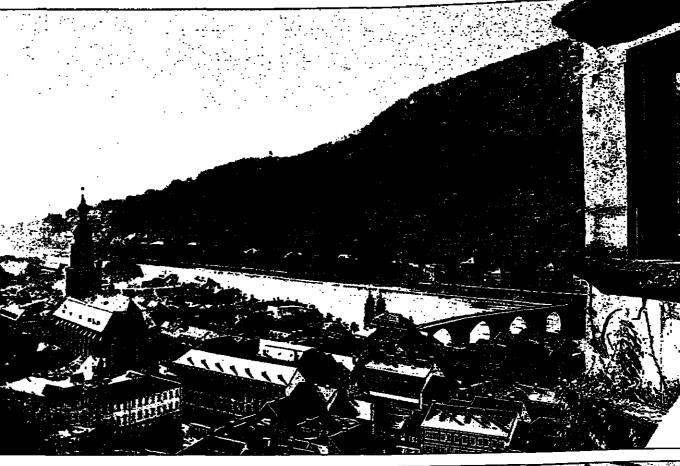
My letter home takes up the story: "Well, it was an awful day, and this seemed ideal. We cycled into Aachen, found the station, and sent off the bikes Our friend the inspector turned up and helped us fill in the forms, which were a bit complicated. We sent our saddlebags too, taking out only a few belongings, and tying these in a bundle. We must have looked like displaced persons. Then the inspector took us back to the frontier by tram, and we put on dry socks and shoes in his office, and he took us for coffee, and got the waiter to add something to it: it tasted awful, but it certainly warmed us up. Then we found out that we were too late to get into the youth hostel so the Inspector said that he would find us somewhere to sleep at the frontier station, and meanwhile he would take us out to

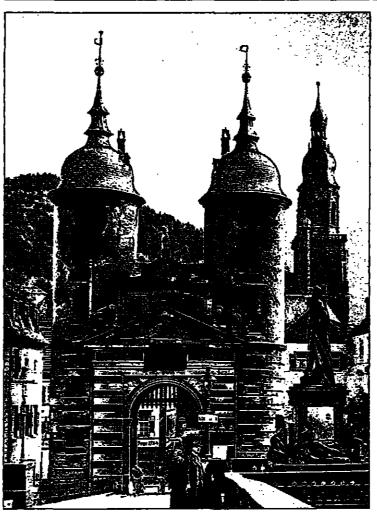
'He took us to a restaurant in Vaals, and we each got a huge plate of two fried eggs, bacon, bread, tomatoes, gherkin and goodness knows what else besides. It was marvellous. Later he and another customs officer took us for coffee, and told us their war stories and adventures... Then we went back to the customs post. There was a little room there where night-duty men sometimes slept - only one camp bed, but they spread beavy packages of forms on the floor, and left us their coats. We tossed for the bed, and I lost! I can't say we got much sleep - there was traffic all through the night, and voices and footsteps.

"We got up about half-past six, washed. tied up our bundles, and sat outside in very pale sunshine, having breakfast. About half past eight a customs man rushed out, and said 'Quick - here's a bus going to Cologne.' He picked up our bundies and threw them into the bus, and we got in and off we went." We were, we discovered, the guests of

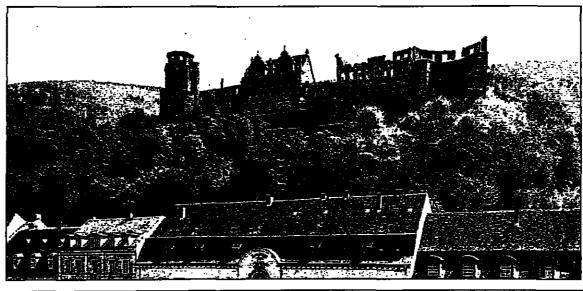
while they were happy to have us along, and to take us with them up into the mountains. Before we left them in the evening we had promised to include Echt on our route back and see them again. And we did. So we reached Cologne on the day

we'd planned, but not until 8pm - and eventually found a bed (illegally) in the Toc H Club. And we reached Heidelberg. too. In the Rhine valley there was no place to pitch a tent, and we joined the German youth hostel movement. Some of the hostels were centuries-old buildings, and one or two had been purposebuilt, for the Hitler Youth Movement, but none provided us with a lodging quite as strange as the one we had that night on









the summer of 1951: top, view over the town; above left, the towers of the Karl-Theodor bridge; above, the old university; left the old castle

EUROPE FOR ZERO

How would today's young and adventurous traveller make the journey to Heidelberg? Probably by air, since it would take the average wage-earner barely a day's labour to buy a plane ticket from London to Frankturt, the nearest eirport to Heidelberg. You can easily hitch-hike from here, since the terminals are conveniently located adjacent to the autobahn but a train would whisk you to Heidelberg in under two hours, with the total journey costing around £100.

If you insist on travelling on a shoestring, here's how. Forget the bicycle. Instead, start hitching at the Elephant and Castle in London, a half-hour walk from Parliament Square, the West End or the City. Stand opposite the Coronet cinema at the start of the New Kent Road and hop down to Kent on the A20, not the A2.

You need to end up at Folkestone, not Dover. because Le Shuttle carcarrying trains through the Channel Tunnel charge per vehicle rather than per person. Hence drivers are not financially disinclined to pick up hitchers.

Stay with your benefactor as deep as he or she goes into France, to avoid the hitchers' graveyard that is Calais. The pickings up are much easier in Belgium and **Germany.**

The advantage that you have over the traveller of the 1950s is that Continental Europe is sans frontières, so you are unlikely to find yourself dropped off just short of border crossings by motorists who fear you could be carrying contraband. So you should reach Aachen, by way of Belgium or even Holland, with few problems. The Vaals border post where Elizabeth Candlish bedded down is these days just a couple of unstaffed offices.

From here it is an easy haul along the Rhine to Bonn and beyond; dodge Frankfurt by taking the route via Mannhelm. The going gets stickler (and prettier), once you start striking east through the hills towards the former DDR. The chances are you will arrive in the fine city of Heldelberg in a croaky old a student returning to Germany's classiest university. Total spent: zero. Result:

happiness. When I made the journey, I somehow contrived to make a profit: the driver who dropped me on the "wrong" side of Brussels hurled a Bir100 note after me; saying, correctly, that I probably wouldn't have change for the Metro - fare Bfr50. Thankfully, travelling in Europe is still blessed with the small, human kindnesses that Elizabeth and Margaret experience.

Simon Calder

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Childsplay across the Continent

Family breaks abroad can be hell – but not if you know where to go, writes Deborah Jackson

I've travelled from Cornwall to Inverness, from the wild West (Pembrokeshire) to the remote East (Hythe and the Cinque Ports). But when parents ask me to recommend a decent family hotel abroad, it's not so easy to be specific. Unlike British hoteliers who tend to turn their noses up at children, foreign hostelries take them so much for granted they often neglect to cater for them. High chairs are practically unknown across the Continent. Children are expected to wade through miniature versions of their parents' bouillabaisse, or subsist on repetitive junior

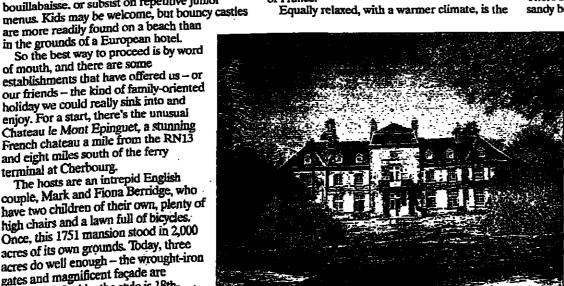
n pursuit of the perfect family-friendly hotel,

are more readily found on a beach than in the grounds of a European hotel. So the best way to proceed is by word of mouth, and there are some establishments that have offered us - or our friends - the kind of family-oriented holiday we could really sink into and enjoy. For a start, there's the unusual Chateau le Mont Epinguet, a stunning French chateau a mile from the RN13

and eight miles south of the ferry terminal at Cherbourg. The hosts are an intrepid English couple, Mark and Fiona Berridge, who have two children of their own, plenty of high chairs and a lawn full of bicycles. Once, this 1751 mansion stood in 2,000 acres of its own grounds. Today, three acres do well enough - the wrought-iron gates and magnificent façade are unchanged. Inside, the style is 18thcentury faded grandeur, no central

sense of humour. At Le Mont Epinguet, you get a quasi-Continental B&B (croissants in the summer, porridge in winter), a fantastic social atmosphere with lots of families (English, French, Dutch) and directions to the very handy local eaterie, so small it has no name, in the village of Rufosses. Here, Madame makes four-course meals on the open fire for Fr60 (£6), pays heed to your children and

takes them off for sweets in her other shop. Mark and Fiona love entertaining families they can lend you a bike with baby seat, or suggest some super hill walks. Nearby are safe beaches, a popular animal park, exciting indoor pool and a chateau with its own play area. At Fr2650 per week (about £265) for a family room for four (or Fr120 per person per night) it's a highly affordable base for a beautiful and accessible part Equally relaxed, with a warmer climate, is the



heating or carpets but lots of space and a Family chateau: Le Mont Epinguet PHOTOGRAPH: DEBORAH IACKSON

Hostal Los Piños near Pollensa on the island of Majorca. "We love it because it's very simple," says Liz Doyle, who has returned numerous times with husband Paddy and various combinations of their three children. "My abiding image of peace and relaxation - walking along the clifftop opposite the hotel and looking back at the valley bathed in golden light."

Hostal los Piños is run by Juan Coll and his wife Anna. Their style is laid-back: "You help yourself from the bar and note what you've taken in a book," says Liz. "People tend to go out to eat and return later to gather and chat. There are lots of Brits - some who we've met year after year. One family has been going for 27 years." Not specifically pitched as a family hotel, Los Piños is nevertheless a favourite with children of all ages. There's a swimming pool, table tennis table, two

> Children are an essential part of the exhaustive programme at the Theresia. The owners themselves have three children aged three to 12, so they know what harassed parents are looking for. There's a teenage activity room with videos and computer games, a

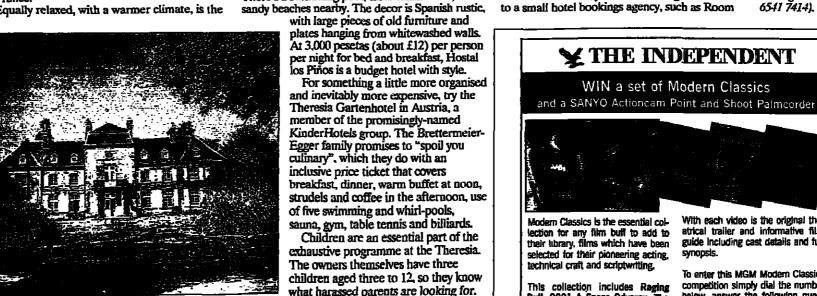
kindergarten for over-twos, and a resident nurse. Constructed in Austrian chalet style, the Theresia is a jewel in a verdant, Sound of Music landscape. It leaves you breathless with its range of facilities and level of child catering and has the added advantage of being in the heart of skiing country - imagine bubbling away in the jacuzzi at 37C, with snow stretching from the mountain tops to the very edge of the steaming water...

A simple family room for four on the allinclusive tariff costs from 1.040 Austrian schillings per person, per night (around £50.) There are reduced rates for children and special offers depending on season. Packages can be booked through Lauda Air, with daily flights from Gatwick to Salzburg.

If you are looking for a wider range of personal recommendations, your best bet might be to talk to a small hotel bookings agency, such as Room

Service, which specialises in family-owned independent hotels in Italy, Spain, France and Portugal. Room Service director Victoria Riela personally visits all the hotels on her books and only deals with non-chain establishments. The company can also arrange flights, car hire and personal itineraries.

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The Honshu shuffle

Simon Calder dodged the bullet and dallied in a corner of Japan a million miles from the mad metropolis

yourself, all travel on a Japan Rail Pass is free Seven days on the nation's rails cost me £160, which also happens to be the price of the 400-mile round-trip dash between Okayama and Tokyo. As the bullet train ricocheted into Okayama station. I managed to

convince myself I was making a profit.
In any list of great travel deals of the world, the Japan Rail Pass would be right up there alongside domestic flights in Ecuador (run by the air force, with fares as low as £5) and the Woolwich Ferry (free, with splendid views of the Thames, the City and Greenwich). But unlike either of these, the rail pass lasts a week and is utterly dependable.

The temptation, though, is to race back and forth along the thousands of high-speed miles of track. Instead, once you have barrelled down to Okayama, switch to local trains to shuttle happily and economically between towns and cities in Western Honshu.

Honshu is the heart of the island at the centre of the world's most powerful archipelago. But as soon as you get east of Kobe, the economic miracle vanishes in a puff of morning mist rising timidly from each neat and tidy ricefield. Suddenly 120 million people disappear. Japan abruptly stops being intimidatingly crowded and takes on a human scale.

Previously. Okayama had been a brief blur (I had whizzed through at 130mph on a notstopping for unyone express). But this city, the size of Sheffield, turns out to possess a garden whose formality is matched by its flair. A milelong, comma-shaped island in the middle of an unremarkable river has been endowed with perfect garden grammar. Every blade of grass, each peoble, all the intrigue of passionately entwined branches seem calculated to reward the visitor whose eyes are fully open.

Paths invite the eye to dance seductively down to the water, which has suddenly attained a new sparkle. Trees reveal a secret semaphore. commanding your vision to appreciate fully the spaces they define. Shrubs, looking as tough as the gravel that washes silently between them, add punctuation to the stream of horticultural consciousness.

And all before elevenses.

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Which is jolly good news, because as a dispensary of fast, tasty and nutritious food, the Japan Railways station buffet cannot be beaten (even by the Ecuadorean air force catering corps and cafes in Woolwich). The sisterly setup is the same wherever you are. A smiling woman, crinkled by time, sits in a booth surrounded by witch-like broths, heaps of spices

eyond a certain point, you tell and tangles of noodles. In return for £1, she yourself, all travel on a Japan Rail will combine them into an instantly devourable bowlful, prod a pair of chopsticks towards you and enjoy watching your eyes reveal the eager

anticipation of your stomach. All fuelled up, you need somewhere to go. Tourist trails are carved out with a vengeance and a permanence in Japan, which makes it easy to find Kurashiki (20 minutes by implausibly frequent train from Okayama). When Japanese people yearn for a sense of history and culture, they could hop on a plane to Europe. But it is more convenient to make for the closest thing to a tidy Dutch village, and Kurashiki is it.

A canal sidles up from the Sea of Japan to this market town. Anywhere else in this high-achieving country, the waterway would have been covered over and the warehouses flattened. What seems to have happened is that an enlightened entrepreneur bought up the site and decided that the warehouses, now empty of rice, could store works of art. A consignment of Impressionists was ordered up, augmented by local and Chinese art, and housed in a Neo-Classical chamber. This stands, without apology for its architectural eccentricity, amid sombre warehouses whose reflections add gravitas to those of the tearful willows in the canal.

Any surviving sense of profundity is extinguished by the constant sequence of group photos beside one of the more picturesque bridges.

Many of the subjects are clutching garish
orange and green cones, the preferred colours for serving ice cream hereabouts.

JAPAN JAUNTS

Getting there

Simon Calder paid £873 (including tax) for a ticket on Japan Airlines from Heathrow to Tokyo, returning from Osaka, through the airline's subsidiary Jaltours (0171-495 1775). The fare falls to £849 at the end of August. Lower fares are available on airlines such as Aeroflot (for example through IMS Travel -0171-224 4678), or as part of a journey to Australia: London-Tokyo-Sydney and back costs less than London-Tokyo return.

Jaltours also sold him the rail pass, costing £146 for a week of unlimited travel.

Getting information Japan National Tourist Organisation, 20 Savlle Row, London W1 (0171-734 9638).

Strangely, though, you begin to get sucked in to the notion that the group defines what is and is not an attractive place to visit. Kurashiki

Happily for those still in possession of individuality, the town surrounding the photo-opportunities is warm, friendly and easy to get lost in, especially if you dodge a summer shower by diving into the covered market. Its tentacles extend all over town, spitting you out beside a quiet shrine to pacificism, marked

"May peace prevail on Earth".

McDonald's prevails in Kurashiki, as it does in countless Japanese towns and cities. To get away from the nagging encroachment of massmarket mediocrity, just wave the rail pass regally at the ticket collector and clamber on to a train that is only distantly related to rolling stock of the bullet calibre. You ascend from the neon into a plain where pastel colours are toned down a few notches by an overcast sky, presenting a muted version of a Constable landscape. But rather than parish churches, Buddhist shrines are planted in the middle distance.

To make the most of this rural idyll, jump off at Soja station and demand a bicycle. The stationmaster keeps them in his office, and rents them to ticket-holders at £1 an hour.

It would be surprising if many Englishspeakers have come this way before, though I hope some may do so now. But the cycle route through the Kibi Plain is picked out with polite direction signs in English, steering you across a landscape that man has subdued with the greatest respect. A succession of gentle lanes leads you spinning past ricefields and across streams, then beneath the shadow of hills whose heights are commanded by the elegant arcs of shrines. At one stage the present intervenes with a throaty roar from the traffic on the Sanyo Expressway, but quickly the past gains the upper hand. Kibitsu, the village that donates its name to the plane, is so placid that it could be a Provençal hamlet during the lunchtime lull. The pace of life has slowed to that of a chest come.

that of a chess-game.

As the peace of the plain is broken by the wheezy old stopping train, just abandon your bike: the stationmaster at Kibitsu collects them up for his pal along the track, and sends them back on the next train home. So you can complete the circle without backtracking yourself.

As a comically archaic and excessively orange local train clanked uncertainly into Okayama, a quick calculation revealed that you could easily have travelled to Nagasaki and back in the time I had devoted to an obscure corner of Japan. But on this day, and any day, better a branch line than a bullet.



The image of industrial Japan evaporates gently in the mist of Honshu's rice fields

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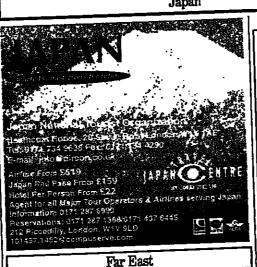
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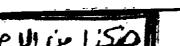
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Bright lights, big city

It used to be dominated by unflappable fleets of cyclists. Now the multi-lane highway - and the Big Mac - have come to Shanghai, writes Patrick Conner

There isn't much that you

can't buy in Shanghai. On

Fangbang Street in the old

city you can pick up aged eggs, skinned ducks and lop-eared

puppies. My own most satisfy-

ing purchase, for about £1, was

potato-peeler. I feel confident

that back home in Herne Hill,

this gadget will place us at the

cutting edge of culinary style.

is Nanjing Dong Lu (once known as Bubbling Well Road), where, it is said, the traffic has

only once been halted - for the

shooting of Spielberg's Empire

of the Sun. The ground floor of

the old East Asia Hotel is now

a clothing store: the man-

nequins are Western, with

sharp noses and blond hair,

although, less predictably, the

lips of the male mannequins

are purple. A few yards down, a fine old Sino-classical build-

ing with giant columns is shared

by McDonald's and Pizza Hut.

fizzy pop. Culture is alive and

well, both Chinese and West-

ern. "Shanghai Spring" was the

title of the May music festival,

with events ranging from a

piano recital in honour of

Beethoven, to Let's Pull

But it's not all burgers and

The Bond Street of Shanghai

right and left.

n its great old days, when of cyclists, scattering them to There are no direct flights imported from Britain and Noel Coward was in residence, the Peace Hotel in Shanghai was the last word in cosmopolitan sparkle. Now in the gloomy foyer there stands a Multi-media Information Kiosk. At the touch of a button we learn that, in Coward's day, the hotel was called the Cathay or, as the Kiosk endearingly describes it, the Cathy - and that it was once voted "most

famous hotel in the world". Yet nostalgia cuts little ice in modern Shanghai. Like the other pre-war hotels of the city - the Park, which was the tallest building in the Far East, and the grandly-porticoed Pacific the Peace Hotel has been overtaken in the race to attract the new upmarket business clientele. The Shanghainese have always regarded themselves as a cut above other Chinese in style and the ability to make money. When they look at the rapid rise of Hong Kong, they attribute it not so much to Western savvy as to the enterprise of the many Chinese who came from Shanghai to Hong Kong after 1949, and who in several cases created colossal fortunes. Now that Hong Kong has been placed on a (nearly) equal footing with the rest of Thina, will not Shanghai soon

indeed eclipse, former British colony? tion has been much debated

recently in the Hong Kong press, and it springs mind again as one looks from Peace glittering din-

ing room at the

new Shanghai the across Huangpu River. The last time I sat here, seven years ago, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower dominates the city, and around it have sprouted a group of spectacular buildings which resem-

ble the dust-jacket of a sci-fi

The Peace Hotel stands on the Bund, the long, curving a second glance from the staff embankment that was first developed by the British in the middle of the 19th century. Shanghai is not ashamed of its semi-colonial past. It has preserved the imposing bank and hotel buildings along the Bund; these great grey relics, built in styles varying from Harrods Baroque to orientalised Deco, have been designated historic monuments; and the British-looking bronze lions which once guarded the entrance to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank may now be admired in the Shanghai

Museum of History. Yet even the Bund has had to change. The quayside itself has recently been raised to form a pedestrian walkway. while the road along the Bund has become a 12-lane highway. At the northern end the road is about to sweep up over the old French settlement, to be linked with a concrete network of overhead highways, in an attempt to ease the city's mon-

strous congestion. In every sense, cars are in the ascendant. Private vehicles are still scarce, but the streets are now ruled by taxis. For- and portrayed in livid hypermerly the balance of power lay colour. I lingered in case of a with armies of cyclists, who, after a volley of blasts from a driver's horn, might change direction by a few degrees, like a lake ruffled by a gentle may accelerate directly championship. The winner, of towards an oncoming column course, was China.

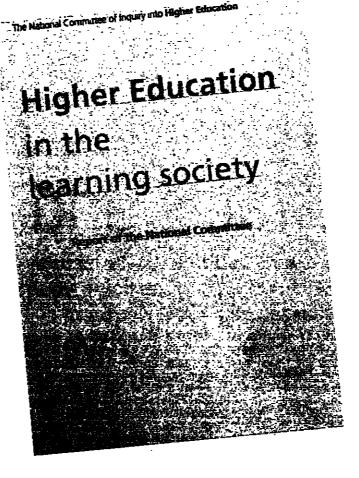
between the UK and Shanghai. Austrian Airlines is offering for £509 return. including tax. Other options are available from Regent Holidays (0117 9211711). a foldaway battery-driven British passport holders need a Chinese visa, obtainable through the China Travel Service, 7 Upper St Martin's

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Will Shanghai become the new Hong Kong? The Pudong district, left, and the Pearl TV bottom left PHOTOGRAPHS:

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piece, the new Shanghai Museum. In front of it, elderly couples waltz beside fountains flanked by ceremonia bronze urns; as approaches, he or she becomes low rendering

of "The Blue Danube" issuing from the depths of the urns. Thus soothed, you enter the

eastern district of Pudong was museum. The new displays a nondescript suburb; now its are truly splendid - informative, varied, stimulating.I was privileged to eat lunch in the museum staff canteen: copious quantities of soup, rice, scrambled egg and salty meat. Despite being the only Westerner there, I scarcely received (the Shanghainese have no doubt seen more than enough Westerners during the last 150 years), although I think my elderly briefcase attracted one or two pitying stares. If the new museum is a

haven of tranquillity, elsewhere one is constantly reminded that Shanghai contains 13 million people in an area appreciably smaller than London. The traditional gardens of Yu Yuan must be the most crowded gardens on earth; the pavilions have names like "Hall of Peaceful Contemplation", but there's not much chance of that. The antique market outside the old city is a good deal more relaxing. Here I nearly bought a stylish pair of 1940-vintage Chinese spectacles; Qing Dynasty, the stallholder assured me.

If anyone doubts the Shanghainese awareness of the outside world, they have only to watch the giant video screen in People's Square. As night fell I watched as Clinton and various Chinese leaders came and went, each of them 50ft tall glimpse of British leaders. My patience was finally rewarded by a newsflash from Manchester. No politicians were in view, however; it was the final of the world table-tennis



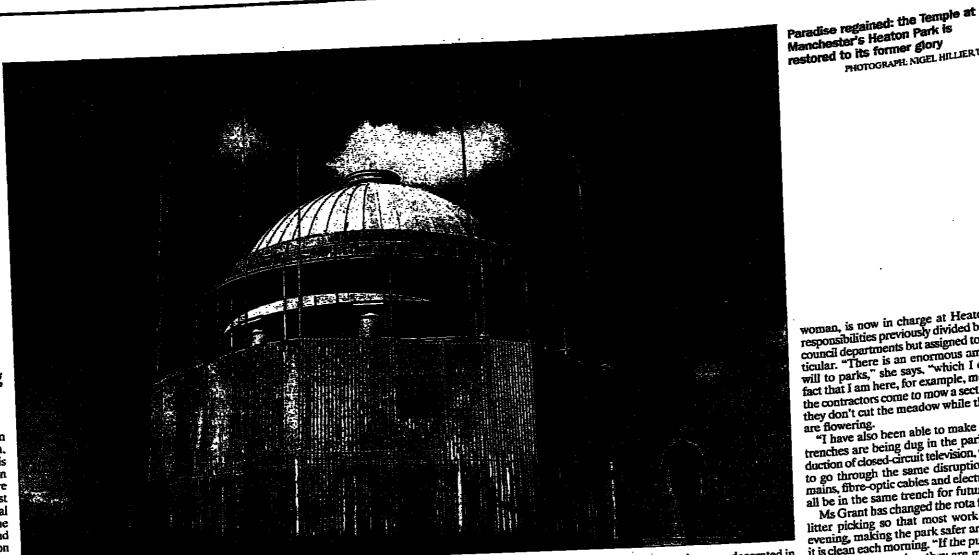
Haven earth

Jack O'Sullivan discovers how Britain's urban parks are being rescued from dereliction

he Temple, a sandstone Georgian folly once visited by Wellington. Disraeli and General Tom Thumb, is a grand romantic gesture. Perched on the highest point of the 640-acre Heaton Park, one of Europe's largest urban public spaces, it looks down over central Manchester and speaks of gentler times. But the view has changed since the park was the pride and joy of Mancunians. The park's centrepiece, Heaton Hall, built in 1772 for the Earls of Wilton and one of the finest examples of a Wyatt country house, is boarded up. Two huge lions, cast in lead by John Cheere, which once adorned the entrance and fascinated generations of children, have been removed to protect them from further vandalism. Other buildings are derelict, no-go areas to the

It's a familiar story – a great urban park, hard won by the Victorians, let run to ruin by their greatgrandchildren. We didn't notice until it was almost too late to save places which, in their heyday, were where many people spent their summer holidays.

Typically, decline in parks like this one dates from the Second World War, when the cast-iron railings were sacrificed to the war effort; parks could no longer be secured at night. After the war, planners were more interested in spending on slum clearance and new roads. Le Corbusier's



Modernism was not interested in ornate, decorated landscapes. While rural areas enjoyed the protection of the Countryside Commission, urban spaces were abandoned to blighted obscurity. After all, why bother with Heaton Park on the north side of Manchester, when you could drive

to the Pennines? Then parks' departments disappeared into puncil "Leisure Services", their horticultural expertise and political clout lost, leaving the parks starved of funding as sports centres got the cash. Abolition of park-keepers, victims of compulsory competitive tendering, was an almost fatal blow. They were replaced by unaccountable outside contractors, charged with mowing the grass once a fortnight and dumping wood chippings around the roses. Municipal neglect was matched by

vandalism, which, once left unrepaired, grew in its destructiveness.

For Hazel Conway, author of three books on Britain's urban parks, the decline of the People's Park in Halifax symbolised the tragedy. "A whole row of statues on the terrace had to be enclosed in hardboard to prevent them being vandalised. Yet, even then, they were still damaged." For the general public, the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common evoked a sense that many

parks were no longer safe. But this dismal tale is drawing to a close. We are witnessing a great revival of the British urban park. The Temple at Heaton Park has been carefully restored, its stone interior marble fireplace and simple oak floor once more a resting place for walkers, not simply winos. The outside of the Hall,

which has a cupola as its main room, decorated in Etruscan style, will soon be renovated. Inside, the British Folk Art exhibition is already on display. The elegant Orangery, until recently a shabby shell of its former glory, is now a restaurant, catering for weddings. A new pavilion has been built for the golf course. A kitchen garden has been developed, and an aromatic garden for the blind is planned. Derelict buildings are due for demolition. The park is now locked at night and hundreds of new litter bins are regularly emptied. The greens at Heaton Park will host the lawn bowls competitions for the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

Two factors explain the turnabout -£3.4m allocated from the National Lottery (plus matching council funding) and the appointment of a park manager. Theresa Grant, a tough-minded Irish

woman, is now in charge at Heaton Park, given responsibilities previously divided between several

PHOTOGRAPH NIGEL HILLIER UNP

council departments but assigned to no-one in particular. "There is an enormous amount of goodwill to parks," she says, "which I can focus. The fact that I am here, for example, means that when the contractors come to mow a section of the park, they don't cut the meadow while the wild orchids are flowering.

"I have also been able to make sure that when the park for the introtrenches are being dug in the park for the introduction of closed-circuit television, we will not have

to go through the same disruption again. Water mains, fibre-optic cables and electricity cables will all be in the same trench for future use." Ms Grant has changed the rota for cleaning and litter picking so that most work is done in the evening, making the park safer and ensuring that

it is clean each morning. "If the public see it litterfree when they arrive, they are more likely to be tidy themselves." Soon the lions will return, once proper security has been introduced.

This is just the beginning for Dr Stewart Harding, team leader of the Urban Parks Programme for the Heritage and Lottery Fund, which is inviting bids from 2,500 parks. Some £70m has already been allocated and a similar amount will soon be available. He would like to see an Urban Green Agency established and made responsible for town parks, each with a manager like Theresa Grant. For too long," he says, "parks have been seen as a problem, rather than being recognised as a vital component of an urban area. We will soon see them again, as the Victorians did, as the jewel in the crown of every town.

Refuge of pirates and puffil

undy is an elusive island floating tantalisingly off the north coast of Devon. A former refuge of rebels, pirates and smugglers, it lies below the Bristol Channel, its western shore pummelled by the Atlantic.

At Bideford I set sail on the charming 1950s MS Oldenburg for the 23-mile voyage to the island, which I had last seen earlier in the summer shimmering in a violet heat-haze.

Today was different. The wind was gusting a brisk damp south-westerly as we chugged down the river Torridge from Bideford. Once out to sea the ship developed an idiosyncratic roll-andshudder movement soon imitated by some of the 260 passengers. Kindly and efficient crew members handed out paper bags and napkins then wrapped the most queasy passengers in fluffy blankets and stowed them gently down below. Someone told me it wasn't always so - this was her 13th trip to Lundy.

Enormous basking sharks began to accompany us, slurping plankton, and I was glad not to be one of the many passengers with Martian complexions lean-

ing precariously over the ship's rail. After three hours the island appeared, weighed down by sea mist. Lundy's landing place on the sheltered eastern shore by Rat Island (last refuge of the British black rat) is only accessible by small craft. Curious seals bobbed out of the water as we disembarked by launch and rubber dinghy.

The heaving sea trip meant that time turned out to be the Tent Field. The

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Lundy is tiny, so you can do its circular walk quite quickly, perhaps using your new sea-gait. By Sally Kindberg

on dry land before the return journey was limited. On the slaty beach I headed right, up a steep path underneath dark wet limbs of stalwart British campers cliffs held in place (hopefully) with roughing it and loving every moment. giant metal pins, and bordered by hairy Lundy cabbage.

Using my newly acquired rolling sea-Built with Jamaican sugar money in 1835 for the pious Heaven family, its roof, sloping inward to catch precious rainwater, is an early example of ecological soundness. This house, like 22 other properties on Lundy (including one lighthouse) is maintained and administered by the Landmark Trust, and can be rented from them.

I followed the track to the village curving up to the left. A sharp left takes you to the 13th-century Marisco Castle, built as a fortress by Henry III after he had executed the rebellious William de Marisco who used Lundy as his hideaway.

I continued past the Victorian Gothic church of St Helena's on the left, walking across turf that was curiously bouncy. That, and my nautical gait, was having

a strange effect on my progress. Dome-shaped structures loomed out of the mist swirling in a field on my left. Disappointingly, what I had hoped was a Celtic encampment in a time-warp

naked legs of its inhabitants were not those of some ancient tribe but the rain-

Further on, the shrill squealing of pigs g for the shelter of the Marisco Tavgait, I soon passed Millcombe House. ern. Its warm, dark interior is hung disconcertingly with the many battered lifebelts of ships that never quite made it. Lundy is the site of 137 shipwrecks.

The weather cleared a little and I headed north again, enticed by visions of puffins with stripy beaks, and images of guillemots' eggs, a former Lundy del-icacy, bright blue and almost conical (they don't roll off ledges).

I passed the Lundy Shop, which sells everything, including Lundy's own postage stamps. "Puffinage" was introduced in 1929 by the then owner of the island, Martin Harmer, when the first red and blue puffin stamps were issued.

Further on the left is a farm on whose land two giant skeletons (over 8ft long) were discovered in the 1850s, hidden under gramte and slate slabs. Over to the west is the Old Light, a sturdy lighthouse of Dartmoor prison. Built in 1820, it is now divided into flats for visitors, and has designed by Daniel Alexander, architect an uninterrupted view of the Atlantic Unless it's foggy.

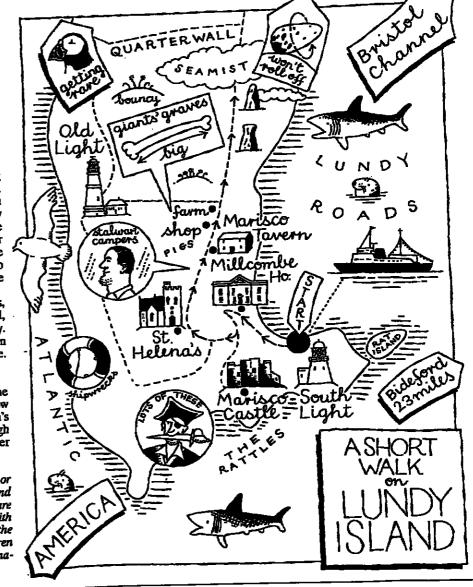
The South Light fog-warning belowed mournfully as I continued north. On my right were man-sized marker stones shawled with mist. Beyond them were the watery Lundy Roads, a safe haven for ships trying to shelter from the

prevailing westerly winds. The Oldenburg would soon be setting off for the mainland, so I headed back. Given a little more time, however, you can complete the circular walk - Lundy quarrelling behind a fence sent me hurwide. I must have walked a little under two miles but I had had no realistic sense of scale, and time had passed far too quickly. I knew I would have to come back to this intriguing island.

Eventually I joined other passengers, their cheeks now healthily flushed, streaming back to the landing bay. Below us was the Oldenburg floating on a calmer sea, ready to sail with the tide.

Directions Once on the island take the path to the right, pass Millcombe House and follow track to left and right again. St Helena's church is on left. Follow track through village and head north towards Quarter

The MS Oldenburg sails from Bideford or Ilfracombe in Devon. Lundy maps and information (and puffin stamps) are available on board. The boat leaves with £12 for the round trip. Sailing informa-tion 01237 470422.



🕇 ensational Amaryllis for £7.95 each inc p&p This selection of Giant Antaryllis are the cream of the crop from Holland. Amaryllis lowers are often disappointed when ying beautifully packaged bulbs from stores, as the picture shows three and unbelievable giant heads where as the bulbs produce only a single ms and unbelievable giant heads where as the bulbs produce only a single

stems and unbelievable grant heads where as the bulbs produce only a single stem or possibly two. The bulbs supplied from this offer are the size used for the sensational pictures - the size of a three year old childs head they cannot fail to please when in bloom.

There are three wonderful varieties to choose from; Apple Blossom - a delicate pink and white. Red Lion - a velvety deep red and Menerva - red and white stripe. One bulb will cost you just £7.95 or you can choose to buy a pack of three bulbs, one of each of the varieties for just £19.95 inc poets.

pap. Bulbs will be despatched from early september

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must expect cows to bellow, donkeys Peacocks, however, are something else. The aggravation they cause is in

demented by the four birds property of the National Trust – that roam the Wiltshire village. A long-term peacock-owner myself, I know how the sufferers feel; and experience has taught me that it is unfair all round to keep such large birds, which are only halfdomesticated, in any environment

do not usually have much time

for townspeople who come out

complain about the noise and

to live in villages and then

smells. Immigrants to the country

like the effluent from hell.

to bray, tractors to roar, chain-saws

to scream and silage clamps to stink

a class of its own, and I cannot help

feeling sorry for the people of

Avebury who are being driven

shared by humans. Once you have seen peacocks in their natural state, you cannot contemplate incarcerating them in any form of cage, however large. Nor can you pinion them, to stop them
flying, because they must roost aloft
to be safe from foxes. Essentially birds of the jungle, they need a tremendous amount of space to flourish; and if they are allowed to roam free in any village, they are bound to cause intense vexation. It was trips to India and Nepal

that encouraged us to take on peacocks. I shall never forget an afternoon spent darting thinos in the Terai, the plain south of the Himalayas. As our elephants crunched through the scrub, huge birds exploded in bomb-bursts of five or six, climbing steeply against the



Duff Hart-Davis

Immigrants to the country must expect cows to bellow, donkeys to bray and chain-saws to scream. But peacocks are something else ...

dazzling white backdrop of eternal snow peaks on the northern horizon. In England, our first three birds were two hens and a male whom my wife named Shalimar. We were then living in the Chilterns, and the farm

was so isolated that there was nobody in earshot to be tormented by the brazen screeches of "Ay-ORRRR, Ay-ORRR" which Shalimar continually trumpeted out in spring.

We ourselves suffered most from free-lance avian gardening. Pacing the flowerbeds, endlessly inquisitive. the peacocks would nip off bud after bud, eating some but dropping most of them disdainfully to the ground. Whenever they decided to take a dust-bath in the vegetable patch, it

was curtains for whole crops, young Mercifully perhaps, our flock never increased much. The hens nested in the nettles behind the farmyard, but cats or foxes got most of the chicks, and Shalimar - driven, no doubt, by the instinct to preserve his personal supremacy - revealed a distressing propensity for murdering his own offspring.

So it was that when we moved to

our present home in 1985 we still had only four birds. Catching them for transportation was a saga in itself, but we managed it by fixing up the door of a stable with a long draw-string, luring the peacocks inside along a trail of corn, and yanking the trap shut from a

After being driven down the M4 in individual hessian sacks, they soon took to their new surroundings. But here, though again out in the sticks.

we lack the final degree of isolation. A lane runs past the house, and we have one neighbour, a keen and skilful gardener.

It was one thing for passers-by to gawp in admiration as Shalimar displayed on the terrace, with 100 violet eyes glaring from the iridescent green of his fanned-out tail feathers; quite another when our neighbour's rows of newly-sown carrots were left looking like an exhibit in the Imperial War Museum - a relief model of the battle of the Somme, all mounds and craters.

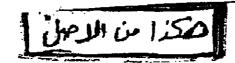
One spring, our surviving female hatched out three male chicks, and when these all grew into strapping teenagers, we decided that the family must go. They were taken on by kind friends in Oxfordshire - but there they created even worse havoc than with us.

Decamping across country into the nearest village, they took up residence in trees around the graveyard and split the community. exactly as in Avebury. One faction demanded their immediate removal or extermination; the other threatened to prosecute anyone who laid a finger on them.

Here, Shalimar lived on for a year in solitary splendour, sometimes doing no mean damage to visiting cars, in whose gleaming paintwork he discerned phantom rivals. Eventually, one winter dawn, a for got him in the orchard; and unless win the Lottery, so that I can buy a stately home in the middle of a 500 acre park, I do not think we shall

More noisy neighbours on page 22

ever replace him.





Sow now, to cut colourful, tasty leaves until the end of the autumn, writes Anna Pavord

uccessional sowing of seeds in the vegetable garden is very much easier to work out on paper than it is in practice. On paper you make neat little notes reminding yourself to sow salad crops such as leaf lettuce, radish and rocket at regular two-week intervals through the summer. You construct little be transplanted. It worked fine. They are plans like crossword puzzles, showing how all this is going to fit in on the ground available. But the weather is not a clockwatcher. One sowing bolts, another sulks. The result? A monumental pile-up of crops all ripening at the same time.

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This is all part of the process of learning how to garden. When you start off, you think there must be rules to obey, and that if you obey them, success will naturally follow. As you go on, you learn that rules are much less useful than the ability to interpret what is going on round you. Your own eyes are far more valuable than any rule-book.

Some years, you can smoothly follow a sowing of broad beans with a planting of cabbages or sprouting broccoli, set in the same ground that the beans have been growing in. This year, I couldn't. The beans ('Green Windsor', Johnsons, £1.45) went in on 17 March, two double rows. The cleared off until the end of July, later than finely cut leaves. It grows fast. You can of sky blue flowers.

So the succession I had planned – a row of purple sprouting broccoli and a row of crinkly savoy cabbage - had to be kept waiting in the wings. Seeing, some time ago, that the broad beans were not going to give way in time for a smooth transfer. I potted up some of the cabbage and broccoli seedlings and grew them on in pots, until they could planted out now, netted against the pigeons.

The 'Douce Provence' peas (Marshalls, 99p) have come and gone, too, and there's another long space where the first early potatoes, 'Accent', have been lifted, Although sowing seed seems more of a ring than a late summer activity, there are fact plenty of vegetables that can be grown from seed now in spare patches of

Autumn salads are perhaps the most useful. Chervil, chicory, endive, radicchio, corn salad, land cress and pursiane are all easy and relatively quick. All can be picked when young to make mixed leaf salads that

will keep you going until next spring.

Aniseed-flavoured fresh chervil is a revelation to anyone who is used only to the dried kind. It is one of the ingredients in the classic fines herbes mix called for in French cookery. It's an umbellifer, like our native

Presses from 539.50

it will give fresh supplies of leaves all through the winter. It prefers shade to sun, which is useful in our shady garden.

Suffolk Seeds offer two kinds: plain (90p), and curled (85p). The curled is the prettier of the two. Sow it as thinly as possible, either in rows, or broadcast. It is wonderful chopped into an omelette with parsley and chives.

Chicory, endive and radicchio are all ideally suited for late-summer sowing. If you sow endive before August, it often runs straight to seed. As it is hardier than lettuce, you can harvest it until January. Endive used to be grown in great quantities in the market gardens round London. blanched and protected from severe frosts by a light covering of hay. The variety 'Sally' (Marshalls, £1.05) is self-blanching. The centre of each plant is packed with small white leaves, which gradually darken as

The names are muddling. In France, curly endives such as 'Sally' are called chicory, looking like small cream bombs, is called endive. In growing terms, the major difference is that endive is an annual. Chicory is not, and in its second year, if you

gardening

Could a shed

Grown in deep boxes in a cool greenhouse, sowing of the red-leaved chicory, which we generally call radicchio. 'Rossa di Treviso' is an old Italian variety with bright red, pointed leaves, a decorative enough vegetable to grow in the flower garden. It is very hardy. Sow the seed no more than halfan-inch deep, in rows about 1ft apart. As the plants develop, thin them out until the remaining ones stand about 1ft apart. You can use the thinnings in salads.

The ideal way to pick chicory and endive is to remove a few leaves at a time, from young, scrunchy plants. If you want to cut a whole head, make the cut an inch or so above the neck. Then the plant will sprout

Sugar loaf chicory is the one that looks like a cos lettuce, with tall leaves wrapped around a tight heart. You don't need to blanch it as you do with the Belgian, bomb-like chicory. 'Crystal Head' (Marshalls, 95p) is a sturdy variety that takes more frost than lettuce can stand. 'Bianca di Milano' (Suffolk, 85p) is a reliable Italian variety. You can either leave the plants chicorée frisée, and the stuff we call Belgian as they stand, and use them as a cut-andcome-again crop (start cutting when the leaves are about 3in high), or thin the plants out to about 1ft apart to grow on into

gather it six or eight weeks after sowing. There's just time to squeeze in a late They are also ideal for autumn planting. If (01376 572456)

you want to cheat (as I do) you can order young plants to set direct into the ground. Marshalls is offering 60 plants for £9.95. You get a dozen each of five different kinds, including the vigorous mibuna called

'Green Spray'. Mibuna has long, narrow leaves that grow in an elegant clump, arching out slightly from the centre. The clumps can be almost 2ft across. Like its cut-leaved relative mizuna, it prefers cool to heat. If you treat it as a cut-and-come-again plant, you can start to harvest a crop within a month. The flavour is mild, if you eat the leaves young. They toughen up as they age. It is equally good raw in a salad, or used in a quick stir-fry.

The other vegetables in Marshalls Oriental package are the pak choi 'Mei Qing Choi', kai laan, which you use a bit like our sprouting broccoli, a hybrid Chinese kale called 'Autumn Poem', and the Chinese cabbage 'Kasumi'. Stuffed cabbage recipes usually stipulate European-style cabbage, but the Chinese type is just as good, and doesn't need so much cooking.

Orders for oriental vegetables must be in by the end of August. Contact SE Marshall, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945 crop, an enormous one, was not finally cow parsley, and has the same kind of very let it run up to seed, it produces tall sheaves The Oriental equivalents of these crops 466711). Suffolk Herbs are at Monks Farm, are mibuna, pak choi and Chinese cabbage. Coggeshall Rd, Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9PG

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WEEKEND WORK

Start a lavender hedge by taking cuttings (3-4ins long) of nonflowering shoots and sticking them round the edge of a pot of sandy compost. Keep them in the cold frame or a shady place where they will not dry out too quickly. Rooted plants can be set out next spring.

Deutzias can also be propagated now. They are medium-sized shrubs no more than 5ft high and wide, covered in clusters of flowers, white, pink or purple. Choose half-ripe lateral shoots (those that grow out from a main stem) and set them in sandy compost in pots or a cold frame. Rooted plants can be set out next autumn. Philadelphus, senecio and shrubby grey-leaved artemisias such as A. arborescens can be treated in the same way.

If you can bear to, cut back any violas and pansies that you want to increase and cover the crown of the plant with a finely sifted mixture of sandy soil. This. will encourage the plant to produce some good new growths. You can then pull these out with a few roots attached and pot them up to grow on as new plants.

Take cuttings from tender plants such as geraniums. fuchsias, helichrysums and penstemons. All these root easily in small pots, but must be given frost protection through the winter before they are planted out again

late next spring.
Cut back tarragon, mint, savory and other such herbs. This will force them to make useful fresh new growth. Fennel heads are handsomely in flower now, but need to be cut down before the seeds spread over the garden.

Cyclamen corms that have been resting can be started into growth again now. Clean off all the old leaves, shake any loose soil off the roots and re-pot the corm in the smallest possible pot. Use John Innes No 1 compost or its equivalent and set the corm so that the top just shows above the compost. Spray the corm every day with tepid water to start it into growth. Do not bring the plant into the house until there are at least four flowers in bud.

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Blyton: the wrongs and writes

Few writers have suffered Ann Widdecombe (age 48) such opprobrium as Enid Blyton. Fifty years ago her work was pronounced 'ephemeral' by one librarian, there were accusations of classism, sexism and racism and more esoteric interests such as the use of spanking came under scrutiny in the Faraway Tree. She was attacked for undemanding, repetitive vocabulary, weak, unrealistic plots, and poor characterisation. Nevertheless, Blyton, who would have celebrated her centenary this month, sold 700 books, and The Famous Five, Secret Seven and Noddy are back on the shelves. What do her readers think of her now? Gwenda Joyce-Brophy

Occupation: MP

Read: "Every one" of Blyton's books.
Favourite Series: Mallory Towers (set in a girls' boarding school). They were really exciting.
Favourite character: Big Ears - he was

Influence? They encouraged me to read, read and read. The best stimulus to a child's mind is the development of an active imagination in a creative, yet structured form - enter Enid Blyton. Politically correct? I loved my golliwog.
Would you/have you bought Blyton for your own or other children? Yes.

Clare Short (age 51)
Occupation: Secretary for International Development

Read: Quite a few I think of the Famous Five and Secret Seven. They were an easy read but I read lots of other books as well. Favourite character: George the tomboy. [Georgina of the Famous Five]. I think like many women I identified with the more independent-minded girl character.

Influence? Not a lot.
Politically correct? My upbringing celebrated all the values that are now described as politically correct; they were, and are, strong in me. I didn't object to Enid Blyton, but I did recognise that the books were a bit trivial, but I still enjoyed reading them.

Would you/have you bought Blyton for your own or other children? Probably not. I wouldn't ban them, but I feel that there are other, perhaps better, books available.

George Player (age 48) Occupation: Features Editor for Period House magazine Read: Famous Five.

Favourite series: Famous Five, they were good adventure stories. Favourite character: Probably one of the

Influence? The Famous Five had good action holidays. My children I hope have had something of the same, but with pretend rather than real-life baddies. I Would you/have you bought blyton

House & Home

when I grew up myself, about three years

Politically correct? My memory is that the children seemed normal, natural and polite. The politically correct aspect of some children's books today is so laboured that it overpowers the storyline. Would you have you bought Blyton for your own or other children? Yes.

Fern Britton (age 39) Occupation: Currently presenter of Ready, Steady Cook

Read: All the adventure and mystery stories plus school books such as Mallory Towers

Favourite series: The adventure and mystery ones. I loved the gripping nature of them - honestly! They left me totally spellbound. I identified with all the characters, and I also loved the fact that adults didn't interfere.

influence: They created a huge extra dimension to my childhood, a childhood shared with the characters. They were my adventures, too. Politically correct? No.

finally stopped reading Enid Blyton books your own or other children? Yes.

Gifte Gakpeto (age 32) Occupation: Law graduate, from Ealing, Middlesex, working in Intellectual Property protection. Read: Famous Five and Secret Seven at

home in Ghana. Favourite series: The "Adventure" series. I loved the suspense and the tension the stories created.

Influence: It enlightened me, and showed me how other kids behaved and reasoned. Politically correct? No. Would you/have you bought Blyton for your own or other children? Yes.

Maria Savva (age 24)

Greek, grew up in Haringey.

Occupation: Economics PhD student. Read: Twenty Minute Stories, later the Famous Five.

Favourite Series: While the stories for younger children drew me in as a Blyton fan, when it came to the series written for older children the love affair with Blyton

seem exotic enough to be truly exciting. were far enough removed from my life and experience growing up in than with social issues.

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Haringey so that I could just not identify with them. They were just too middle-class for my liking. Would you/have you bought Blyton for

your own or other children? No. Andrew Davenport (age 31) Occupation: Writer and co-creator of the television programme The Teletubbies.

Read: The Adventure of the Wishing Chair and the Secret Seven. Favourite series: Secret Seven.

Favourite character: The Wishing Chair was a personal favourite - an ordinary dining room chair that could grow wings and Influence? For my generation books by

Blyton were often the first books that were engaging, as well as being cheap, readily available and easy to read. I think she deserves credit for introducing thousands of children to independent reading. Politically correct? I remember being

slightly baffled by the fact that characters always went away to school and had very large gardens and playrooms, but I don't Politically correct? The characters did not think as a child you really question this. I think you're far too preoccupied with the

Would you/have you bought Blyton for your own or other children? Yes. 1 don't see why not. Children's culture has boomed in recent years and there is a lot more to choose from and I am not sure that Blyton would be at the top of a list. I certainly would not prevent a child from reading any book they found ful-

Charles Kennedy (38) Occupation: Agricultural and Rural Affairs spokesperson, Liberal Democrat

Read: The Famous Five, Mallory Towers and the Secret Seven series. Favourite Series: Secret Seven. The mys-

tery plots and all the detail appealed to Influence: I would say that her books added to my imagination. I ultimately

stopped reading them because they all belonged to my elder sister and she outgrew them. Politically correct? Some of the references in her books were decidedly middle-class

English, and thus alien to me as a Scot. your own or other children? Yes.

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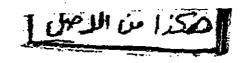
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Experts who can tell the winners from the dogs

It's a long way from the catwalk to the High Street. Linda Watson reports on the fashion buyers

> From catwalk to high street shop, via the fashion buyer. Deidre Kelly, above, is fashion director for Brown Thomas, a Dublin department store Turner, co-owner of the Knightsbridge designer emporium A La Mode. "Fundamentally, the aims are the same but the difference is that they are translating their thoughts into photographs and ink. Women think this is what's happening and that's an end to it. Buyers are the people who have to sell it. Ultimately, our responsibility is far greater."

The main purpose of a fashion show is to launch a two-pronged attack on the purse strings: first, generate the publicity. Next, get the sales. Often, the two are mutually massaging. Occasionally they exist in solitary confinement. Which is why the snakeskin jacket with Quasimodo ack is the new navy, lurex is botter than shoulders, or the hat with horns growing out the side may have a starring role in your glossy catwalk report, but rest assured, there's only one of them - and it's staring at you from the page. "You can pretty much spot the winners from the

that are just done for the show. Even with the more wearable ones, there is room for manoeuvre: you know instinctively if a dress'ends up around the burn on the catwalk, it will be a decent length when you

Fashion buyers do far more than just buy clothes. They choose colours, sizes, quantities and shapes. They need to know what will go with what, who goes where, and which labels will live happily as next-door neighbours on the shop floor. With budgets from £30,000 per season for small independents to millions for department stores, they must know what went cold last season and what's about to be hot. The composite fashion buyer would be part psychic, part gambler, a walking advertisement for designer style with the psychological make-up of Paul McKenna and John McCririck. "We always say 90 per cent success, 10 per cent sale rail" says

store which sells Prada, Armani and Gucci to locals and to celebrity residents of Paddywood. Ask buyers the burning question - how to pick stars from thousands of potentials - and they echo the same sentiment: it's not enough to have good taste - you need to put yourself in the position of the customer. "You are on the road to disaster if you choose your own personal taste," says Liz McCarthy. "Obviously, it plays a part, but it's a case of keeping your eyes open, listening to feedback from the press, trusting your gut feeling. You can't get too emotive about it." Josephine Turner agrees. "Sometimes I might see a dress which is absolutely exquisite but I don't buy it because it will be too difficult to sell. Being beautiful isn't everything: it just won't fit into any lifestyle."

According to one model who has seen them in action, "There are two breeds of buyer: the quite eccentric, quirky woman who has a little shop in the counties, has

I can't believe they're

single!

Be a friend to a friend

a zany way of putting things together and often buys for specific customers in mind. Then there is the department-store buyer. The British will arrive with one assistant and a laptop. The New York contingent are more like the Mafia, with 10 assistants and an unwritten rule that everyone knows their place - even down to who holds the Polaroids. For some buyers, the task is more com-plicated. Claire Locke co-owns Arti-

giano, a mail-order company which sells Italian clothes to British women. She never sees her customers in the flesh. Selling via a shop is completely different. If you see a fabric you like you can touch it, feel it. With a catalogue, there is a lot of trust involved." Consider the case of Susan Whiteley. As

Buying Director for Harvey Nichols, she scours the collections for tasty designer morsels, but has to put another head on when huying for Leeds. "In London, we have quite a big tourist customer and a of art. Much more than just clothes."

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MAXWELLS

very wealthy W1 customer with a huge disposable income. She might spend £20-£30,000 in one go. In Leeds, it's a different story. They don't want a Moschino jacket that is brand identifiable. They move in a smaller social circle. The last thing they want is someone to say, 'God, she's got that jacket on again.' What about the Ladies who Lunch? "We realised there was a gap in our market there. So next season we're selling Versace couture - exclusive to us and the shop on Bond Street - which costs £11-12,000 per piece.

Fashion purists are rare: Mrs Gill Smytheman has been selling Jean Muir on the outskirts of Birmingham to a hard-core following for 30 years. "Sometimes I might throw a dress on the sofa and watch it form its own shape. Often, I'm lying in bed and I just like looking at them hanging on the outside of my wardrobe. It doesn't matter how old they are, or if the first bloom's gone off. They're works

once met a fashion buyer who hadn't slept for a month. He wasn't ill, or jet lagged. He hadn't been harassed, divorced or hereaved. He was en route to a nervous breakdown with bags the size of Vuitton trunks under his eyes because he had been to a fashion show and hadn't bought a particular style of white shirt.

No wonder some buyers are on edge: sitting either side of the catwalk, separated by a pristine oblong, the odd supermodel, and a air of nervous tension are two types of people: one tells us what to wear, the other puts their money where their mouth is. Fashion pundits can say what they like: velvet, or Harry Hill's shirts are the best thing since sliced bread. When it comes to human beings in designer labels, the buck stops with one: the buyer who decided to buy the collection in the first place. "I understand pretty well the motives of the press," says Josephine dogs, "says Liz McCarthy, Fashion Director at Brown tor at Selfridges. "There are many looks Thomas, a beautiful Dublin department

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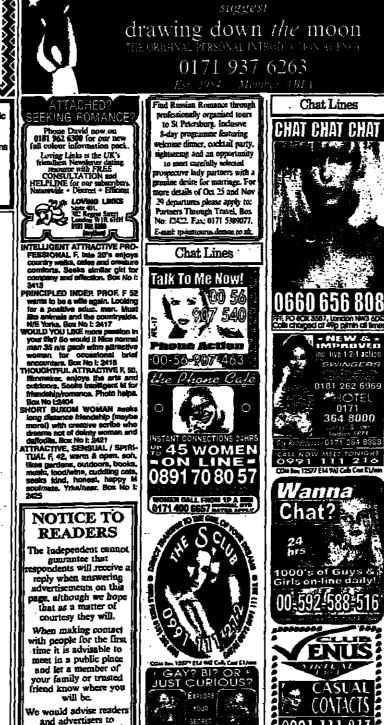
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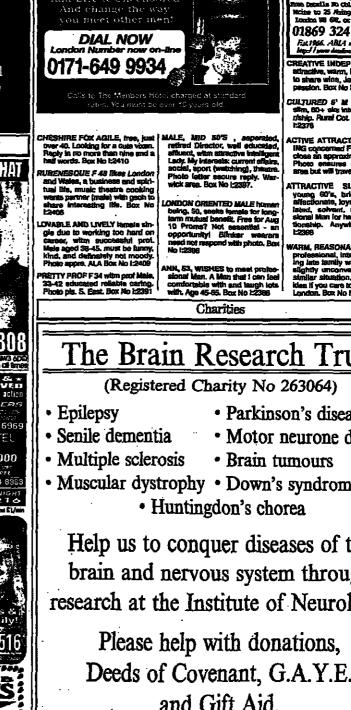
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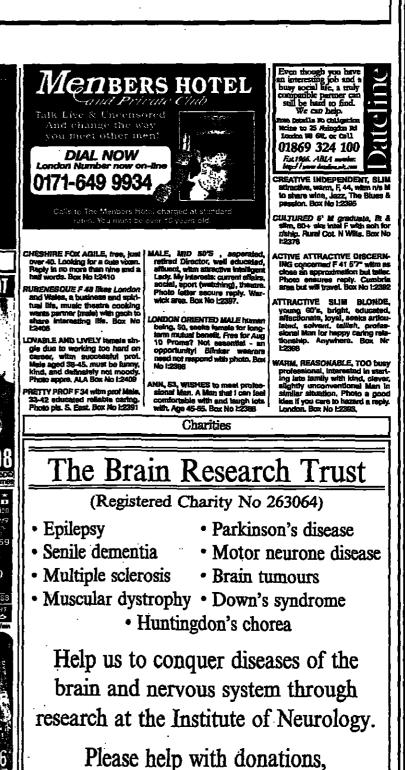
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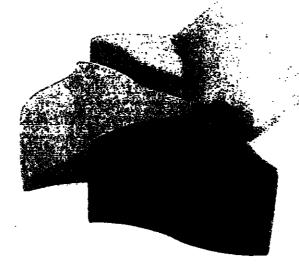


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Bloody Mary Put six dashes means, this time next year. I've spent the last couple of Worcestershire years not really remembering sauce, three whether I was 26 or 27 or 28 riashes Of - no worries. But I can see Tabasco, and now that this was a kind of a pinch of salt sub-conscious avoidance of and pepper in a shaker, add the juice of half a lemon, two ounces of vodka and finally tomato

juice. Shake

and serve.

biological time-clock. A recent catalogue of events has made me realise. with horror, that lots of people are younger than me. For instance last week I learned that my ex-boss's eighteen year old son was going out with a twentyeight year old woman who is a model for the artist Lucien Freud. I remember when this sweet fair-haired boy had his first day at Eton. how he used to come into the office during the holi-days, all shy and awkward. Now he is 6ft-4, and with this woman, who according to an ex-colleague. Freud paints "beaver and all".

Then there are all these girls who have barely even finished their GCSEs, writing best-sellers in their bedrooms. And of course, the Spice Girls. The "affectionately-named Baby Spice is twenty-one, 5ft-2, and enjoys such celebrity that - you know what - the competition on the front page of my local paper this week is "a once in a lifetime chance to win Baby Spice's plaster cast". Can you believe that? (She injured her wrist in Turkey last month, apparently). It's just gross.

Next year I will even be too old to go on a Club 18-30 holiday. Not that I particularly want to go, you understand, but I can't bear the idea of being too old for anything. There is, of course, a solution. A friend of mine, who shall remain nameless, has been lying about her age for the last few years. I recently met her in a bar, where she had to

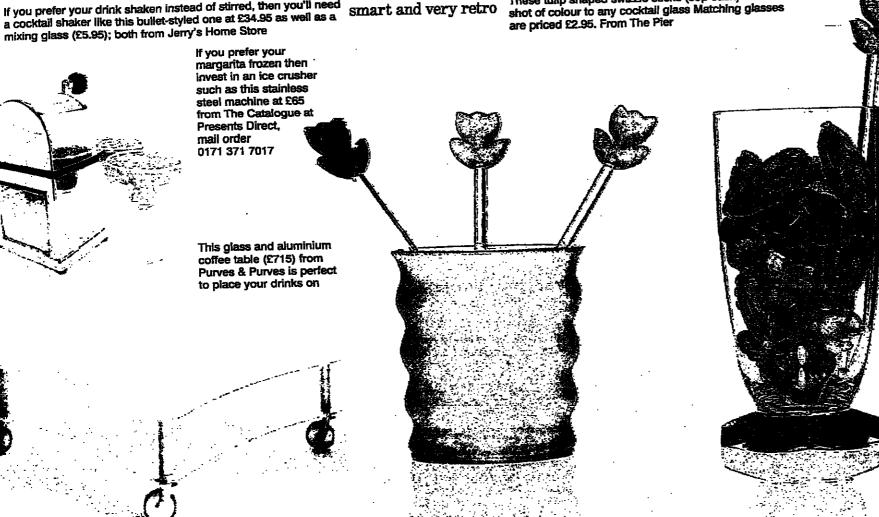
prime me at the door: "look, everyone here thinks I'm twenty-eight. OK? Please don't say anything".

We later spent hours agonising over our imminent decrepitude, discussing everything from wrinkle cream to contraception, along the lines of "mine are much worse than yours" and "are you sure that's safe?" After going through Phytocream, Primordiale, Persona, the Pill, and a few gallons of Chardonnay, she had a brainwave: "I know, let's get our belly-buttons pierced. This was a desperate attempt to recapture the flat-stomached, come-andget-it. don't-give-a-shit golden youth we once knew. but unless I go to Marbella for my holidays and hang out with a bunch of eighteen year olds, who the hell is going to see this thing! Then if the idea of it is to ensnare a muscular young toyboy, what happens - as he too would presumably have a belly-button ring - in flagrante delicto
if your rings get caught? They
thought is too awful. "No" It said. "it would rub against the waistband of my Nicole Farhi suit, you'll have to think of something else".

She, however is going for it - I hope it helps. Meanwhile I'm kicking myself over the hill with intensive sessions in the gym, lashings of Primordiale, cans of caffeine-loaded drinks and definitely not reading "Cosmopolitan's Thirty Things You Should Have Done by Thirty".

Printordiale Serum by Lancome. £37 from Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street. London W1. Anti-ageing Phytocream, 60ml, £9.85 from Verde, 15 Flask Walk, Hampstead, Lt.

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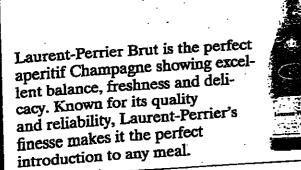
he Independent and the Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to enjoy a two course lunch at Mezzo for just £10 or a two course dinner for £17.50. Every Independent diner will also receive a complimentary glass of Laurent-Perrier Champagne.

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How to Book

Phone Mezzo Downstairs in advance on 0171 314 4000 to make your reservation. Identify yourself as an Independent diner, and quote the password - 'Mezzindy'. The lunch offer is available every day, except Saturdays, while you can take advantage of the dinner offer between Sundays and Wednesdays.

Pre - booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.





■ Mezzo opened in September 1995 at 100 Wardour street, London W1, and is reputedly the largest restaurant in Europe.

The menu is based on traditional foods with the emphasis on high quality, fresh ingredients used to create simple, classic dishes: grills, rotisseries, and of course, crustacea.

"I hope that Mezzo gives people such a thrill and excitement that their jaws drop when they see it for the first time; the enormous, open void between Mezzonine upstairs and Mezzo restaurant downstairs; the dramatic, curvaceous staircase; the theatre of the opened-up kitchens; specially commissioned artwork. Wow!"

- TERENCE CONRAN



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In addition to the Mezzo lunch and dinner offer, The Independent and Independent on Sunday are running an exclusive competition whereby John Torode will prepare and cook for a private dinner party (for up to 8 people) in the home of one Independent reader.

John Torode, well known for his TV work, is "The Chef" at Mezzo and is responsible for all food in a restaurant which on any given day can serve up to 2000 people. John will plan the menu with the winner and prepare a 3 course dinner with a selection of wines to complement the meal. Mezzo will also provide their Sommelier, Kate Thal, to serve your guests.

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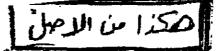
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All you have to do is prepare your answer the following questions:

1. What does the Italian word 'Mezzo' mean in English? 2. Which famous music club formerly stood on the site of Mezzo at 100 Wardour Street?

Then telephone the following number: 0930 563 700

Leave your answers to the two questions, together with your name, address and daytime telephone number. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Your calls should last no longer that three minutes. Lines will close at midnight on Tuesday 12th August 1997.



the counter

he RAC's new image is hypocritical: a shallow PR-inspired attempt by a motoring organisation to jump on the green handwagon. The new crownless logo is a meaningless squiggle, a graphic mess, in contrast to the elegance of the old logo. If I were the Queen, I would give up my membership of the RAC in protest, and join the AA instead. And the new bright-orange RAC breakdown trucks look like Dyno-Rod vans, and are completely inappropriate vehicles for the self-styled "Knights of the

That's what I think, anyway, and that's what I've written in the past.

Neil Johnson, the RAC's chief executive. ex-Sandhurst, ex-Royal Green Jackets and ex-Jaguar director, disagrees. This is not surprising. Many of the new features are his ideas. But instead of merely dropping me a snotty letter and wiping my name off the list for new RAC road atlases (for review, of course), he said: "Let's talk".

So we are. I'm in his big office, overlooking Cockspur Street, right next to Trafalgar Square. He says thanks for coming, and I say "Isn't the new image just an upshot of research you've commissioned that says the RAC is a fusty old organisation, about as in touch with everyday issues as Bertie Wooster, and some clever ad people have now come up with a new identity to boost business?" Or words to that effect.

He says, "Yes, partly", and that rather disarms me. "All organisations have to take stock of where they're at, and prepare for change. On our centenary, it seemed a good time to do that. Our corporate identity hadn't changed since 1972, so we thought it was time. But this isn't just a PR campaign. There is real substance behind our claims. If there wasn't, it would all be bullshit."

Mr Johnson says that the next 20 years will see as many changes for motorists as the first two decades after the car was invented. "Not so many years ago, people joined the RAC because there was a reasonable expectation that, on a long trip, your journey would be interrupted by a breakdown. That just isn't true any more. But, increasingly. there is a reasonable expectation of long delays owing to congestion. One of our main thrusts, in the new-look RAC, is to be able to help our members avoid delay, and keep them on the move."

The RAC's solution sounds like some sort of science fiction. Increasingly, though, the measures are science fact. "We'll not only tell members what the traffic is like before setting out - we do that already.

Nerds the road

Gavin Green is impressed by the new-look RAC's hi-tech plans

We'll give them individual updates on traffic conditions as they move along." In a nutshell, Mr Johnson anticipates doing a deal with a mobile phone network so that, as a car moves from one phone cell to another, the RAC tracks its progress. "It's quite easy to anticipate the car's route. If bad traffic lies ahead, we'll ring you on your mobile phone, warn you about the traffic ahead, and suggest an alternative route." Mr Johnson reckons, "By the end of the decade, we'll be deeply there".

Equally, breakdown services will be revolutionised. The Knights of the Road will be replaced by nerds of the road. Come the new millennium, the on-board computers already fitted as standard to most modern cars will notify the RAC - via the car's mobile phone, about an imminent problem, "At the moment, the on-board computer diagnostic equipment is used when the car is being serviced but, on the move, it is incapable of transmitting



Driven man: Neil Johnson, RAC's chief executive

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW BUURMAN

this information. In the future, it will. It will tell us automatically about an imminent problem, we'll ring you in your car, and suggest you meet an RAC van in a certain location."

Mr Johnson says that an organisation dealing with such "hi-tech" issues needed a new logo, and that the crown, "which is perceived as quite oldfashioned," would not have been appropriate.

"Plus, there is a certain tastelessness in commercially exploiting the crown. A lot of companies just don't like doing that sort of thing any more." The crown stays on the logo of the RAC Motor Sports Association, which controls all British motor sport, and on the logo of the Pall Mall men-only RAC Club. The Queen, far from rushing off to join

the AA in a huff, "was fully supportive".

On the RAC's much publicised "greening", Mr Johnson confirms that the RAC "is still a motoring organisation". This is contrary to what was said at the Islington press conference a few months back (even the location was new-wave trendy) at which the RAC was transmogrified into a "mobility" organisation, whatever that means. Before I could cause Mr Johnson too much embarrassment here, he was quick to point out that "the main area of mobility we deal with, is, of course, motoring. But it should be obvious that traffic congestion is now at the stage that something has to be done. We're trying to balance the reality of what is happening with a desire to be able to continue to use the private car in a reasonable and enjoyable way, and for it to fit into an overall transport package."

He is encouraged by the new government They're talking about a rational, integrated transport policy. Of course, it is going to cost money. It's no good telling people they've got to get out of their cars into public transport. What you've got to do is make public transport more attractive It must be so user-friendly, so clean, so safe, so efficient and so predictable, that it's no contest. Would you rather sit in a traffic jam, or in clean, well-ventilated public transport?

He denies that such talk is just a big PR stunt, and that the recent multi-million pound ad campaign - which depicted the RAC as the potential saviours from an environmental Armageddon - is more than just puff to encourage a few more carusers to join them, rather than the AA. "The ads encouraged people to think in a new way, I hope. Add that to the considerable behind-the-scenes lobbying we do, to encourage the government to offer a proper transport policy, and it is a very tangible plan of action."

The new-look RAC will no longer always be in the "build more roads" camp. "The illogical Mr Toad-like 'lay more concrete for my car' route just isn't realistic," says Mr Johnson. "But some bypasses still make sense, and we will campaign for them. Equally, the state of British roads is disgraceful. The golden rule - it's better to replace a few slates when the roof leaks, rather than wait so long that you need a new roof - was ignored by the last government. Repairs are desperately

needed now." I leave our 90-minute interview agreeing with almost everything that Neil Johnson says. So much for confrontation. But I still hate the logo, and the



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MERCEDES-BENZ CLK320 **Specifications**

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Rivals BMW 328t Coupé Sport, £28,515. Old stager does everything the Mercedes can, feels more solid and is more fun to drive. paugeot 406 V6 Count

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£26,420: Penned by Pininjama, and possibly the most beautiful coupe you can buy. Well built and a great drive, too. Rover 825 Coupe. £26,140. Bigger than the Benz, but close to pensionable age. Looks it

and feels it too, despite fine new KV6 engine. Velvo C76, £35,500 approx Smart new turbocharged coupé has been delayed while Volvo gats the quality right, but should be worth the wait.

than a Mercedes-Benz coupé? Many things, actually, a chateau in the Dordogne, a private income, Raymond Blanc as your next-door neighbour with a communicating door to his kitchen... But, back in the real world, a Mercedes coupé is a fine expression of the more tastefully extravagant things

Few cars have been better advocates of the less-is-more school of automotive temptation. Central to the existence of nearly every coupé is the notion that you pay more than you would for the workaday saloon on which a coupé is usually based, and in return you get less space and less utility but more panache, and visual

frissons of desire. Mercedes-Benzes that have been cut with the stylist's knife, however, lift the notion of spending needless extra money into an almost noble art form, because the sums are so large and the

decoupage so subtle. On this basis the new CLK - lean, lithe, the sportiest-looking full four-seater that Mercedes has ever produced - cannot fail to be a huge hit down Knightsbridge way. In relatively humble CLK 230K form, with a supercharged fourcylinder engine, it costs £4,300 more than a similarly powered C-class saloon, while in grandest CLK 320 specification, with sporty Sport or plush Elegance trim and a fat V6 engine, it's not yours until you've saved up £36,640. And even then you have to pay extra for a sunroof, of most Benzes. The CLK 320's V6 motor, part

electric seats and leather trim. You are, though, driving a Benz. And on this fact is based the UK importer's whole pricing strategy. If the marketeers can get away with it, then who can blame them? There might well be a Peugeot 406 V6 Coupé, tactile and aural granularity sensed in nearly broadly similar in on-paper attributes and every other V6. costing £10,000 less, but it doesn't have The

ROAD TEST Mercedes-Benz **CLK**

By John Simister

Badge. More fool us? It's intriguing to see that in Germany, the Peugeot is pricier than

For many people, the foregoing will tell them all they need to know about the CLK. It's a svelte Mercedes coupé, therefore it's desirable and you want one, end of story.

But I'm going to tell you some more, anyway. Unlike its predecessor, the old-shape Eclass coupé, the CLK is (loosely) based on the C-class. Not that you'd guess from the way it looks, because its nose has the four-headlamp face of a current E-class and the tail design is also a smaller, sharper version of that big saloon's. More than ever before, Mercedes' most accessible coupé is its own car rather than a morph of something more mundane.

That it's good to drive goes almost without saying, although the experience is infused with the competent aloofness that is the hallmark of a new family of engines which are shorter than the straight-sixes they replace so that there's more crumple-room in a crash, sounds and feels much like its ancestors, partly because it has a balancer shaft to smooth out the slight

Apparently unfashionably, it also has just one

exhaust valve per cylinder to go with the pair of inlet valves, but it's a very large one. The idea is to keep more heat in the exhaust gases so that should you need to stop ultra-suddenly, the braking system senses the urgency of the pedal's movement and applies extra pressure the catalyst can work more efficiently. If you're designing an engine today, you start at the exhaust pipe and work forwards. It's a back-to-

front world. This is a quick car, and easy to drive quickly thanks to a slick-shifting five-speed automatic transmission, ample grip and a creamy, fluid demeanour through corners marred only by a rubbery feel to the steering. There's 218bhp on tap, but sophisticated traction control (it works with the anti-lock brakes to slow wheels individually and help inhibit a skid) keeps the power channelled in the right direction. And

pedal's movement and applies extra pressure for a quicker halt.

This is all very good and worthy, but in the end the CLK isn't so special as to justify that huge price. Examine the cabin to see why. It's decently made, and designed with the usual Benz logic, but the materials show signs of cost-cutting out of place in a car of this identity. Given the filmsiness of some mouldings, Mercedes is in danger of risking its rock-solid reputation. Of course the CLK is a good car, but so is the stunningly gorgeous-looking and equally capable Peugeot 406 Coupé. I'd rather save £10,000.

Deceptive Benz: the lean, lithe and supercharged CLK covers ground with consummate ease and rapidity - but with the equally capable Peugeot 406 Coupé at £10,000 less, what price the three-pointed star?

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Sounds like the neighbours

Domestic noise can ruin your life. But people are reluctant to complain. By Penny Jackson

comes to selling holds a great many people back from complaining too vociferously about the source of a disturbance.

An acquaintance who lives in the country, is woken up every morning at six by the dogs next door. "They are let out at first light and are then locked in the house all day. They bark almost the whole time. They are clearly unhappy and I feel guilty about not reporting it to the RSPCA, but if we get into a disagreement with our neighbours I am worried we will not be able

to sell the house." she explains.

All vendors are obliged to inform a purchaser about a dispute with a neighbour and it is a routine question during the standard preliminary inquiry. Any undocumented niggles, though, can be kept under wraps, which is why some beleaguered owners prefer to suffer in silence and why buyers are well advised to visit a property at a number of different times of the day.

Valerie Gibson, founder of the Noise Network, sympathises with this tendency to keep quiet, but regrets the reluctance householders have about tackling an issue directly. "I know exactly what it is like. At one time we had a woman next to us who played her music very loudly. Buyers would come round but never return. It took a year before we eventually sold and even then we had to reduce the price."

Those who are prepared to enter the legal fray in search of peace and quiet find themselves set on an arduous course. Les Fenner fought a long battle with a south London borough which placed air-conditioning units for a swimming pool at the bottom of his garden. "I was woken up five or six times a night by the machines. After four years of broken sleep, my health deteriorated and we moved last year to the West Country," says Mr Fenner from his new home overlooking the sea.

"When we put our London house on the market, we told our buyers' surveyor about the long argument we had about the machines but that it was now settled. Fortunately, it didn't

Even though there are no figures to show that illness can be triggered by domestic noise, it can

f there is anything worse than living with intrusive noise it is the thought that nobody else would even try to. The fear of putting a blight on a house when it comes to selling holds a great many year. ers to curb noise during the night. Offenders face on-the-spot fines of £100, the confiscation of hi-fi equipment and, if they prefer to go to court, they risk a £1,000 fine and a criminal confiscation. viction. But so far, according to Valerie Gibson, only 8 per cent of local authorities have chosen to adopt the full provisions of the Act with a round-the-clock service, although many do provide an out-of-hours hotline and weekend patrols. But as complaints about noise everywhere increase, officers are being met by more aggression. There have been reports of those investigating complaints being abused. spat at and beaten up.

Fear of violence or some kind of reprisal deters many people from approaching their neighbours, Ms Gibson believes. "Most of the people who contact us have made an effort to complain, but some are very scared." While accepting that mediation has a useful role, she is critical of some councils' rush to use it, often forcing complainants into making unsatisfactory compromises.

In the present market conditions, sellers with a relatively small neighbour problem may well be worrying unduly. Agents say that if buyers like a property and the issue appears only minor, they are more prepared to overlook it than they might be during times of plenty. They may even put a row down to an unfortunate clash of personalities.

This may be optimistic when it comes to the

unreformable character, but some rows generate an interest all of their own. Take the annual set-to at Garsington Manor, for instance. The 11-week opera season in this Oxfordshire village provokes feelings to rival anything on stage. At the centre of the antilobby is Monica Waud, whose Georgian home s just an aria away from the manor. Given that the opera is now being prosecuted for breaching noise levels, does she feel this would reduce the value of her house were she to sell? "Far from it," she says. "Opera has such amazing snob appeal, there are no doubt people who would relish the idea of living so close. It's a

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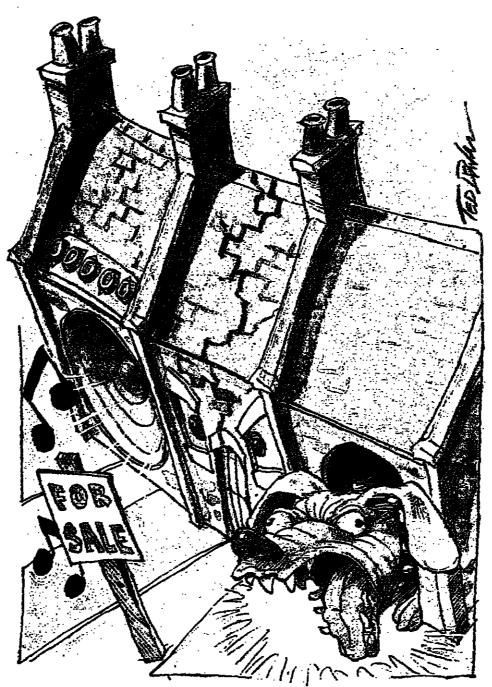
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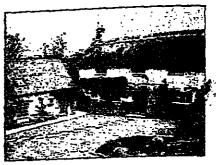
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Cream of Devon

Warren Cottage. near Newton Ferrers, was built by the first Lord Revelstoke in 1882 as a stopping-off point for lunch on a nine-mile drive from his house. Membland Hall, around the Yealm Estuary and along the cliffs.

Warren Beach, the cottage was perfect for guests such as warren Beach, the cottage was perfect for guests such as Edward VII and the Empress Frederick to change into their bathing togs before a spot of lunch. The four-bedroom house with music room, study and an acre of gardens is surrounded by National Trust land. It is being sold by Strutt & Parker who invite final offers by 19 September, at a guide price of £300.000 (01392 215631).

Knowie Down was derelict from the late 1940s until 1990 when the present owners discovered and restored it. The Grade II-listed house near South Molton (six miles from Exmoor) has four bedrooms and three reception rooms and has an additional



two-bedroom annexe presently let as a holiday cottage. The sitting room has a chestnut timber floor, exposed beams and a Hunter combustion stove set into the fireplace. There is a conservatory, barn, garden room and workshop. All for sale through Webbers (01398 323271) for £255,000.

Mill Cottage at Bolberry, a mile inland from Hope Cove in south Devon, is a traditional old house with deep window seats, oak beams and oak boarded doors. The three-bedroom thatched house has been completely renovated and sits in



an acre of landscaped gardens, stocked with wisteria, roses, apple, cherry and viburnum. A stream feeds into a pond of water lilies. Agents Marchand Petit are asking £295.000 (01548 844473).

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* Bull market throws up another hazard: information overload

hen I moved from working as a fund manager for one of the larger investment houses to the investment management department of a stockbroking firm, I thought I would be spared the piles of paper that used to greet me on my desk when I returned from our breakfast meeting each morning. If my hope was for less to read in a broking environment, I was wrong. Just as many trees were cut down satisfy broker/managers as had

to view

been the case in the rarefied atmosphere of a merchant bank. For a brief period, particularly during that time of unnatural quiet that separated the 1987 crash from the Gulf War, the flow of paper lessened. It was too good to last. Gradually the paper flow has picked up. We must be in the bull markets. Speed-reading skills are needed as never before. There can be such a thing as too much information. We have it now,

Let me give you a taste of this week's offerings. Both Nationwide and Halifax are urging me to look at the performance of the housing market. One says growth is slowing, with the year-on-year rise down on June's figure.

The other suggests house prices are as buoyant as ever. It is easy to see why the two are not making the same noise.

Halifax has a very broadly based business, stretching throughout the UK. Its contention that house prices rose by a mere 0.1 per cent during July reflects the very uneven nature of the house price recovery. London has been the leader in restoring values to the home owner. Gradually, we are learning from Nationwide, the good performance in the capital is spreading out to the home counties - but this is of much less importance to Halifax customers, who are buying houses the length and breadth of the land.

Still, Nationwide's contention that house prices rose by more than 10 per cent during the past year (Halifax could not even manage 7 per cent) shows just how strong the South-east has been. London actually delivered a 17.5 per cent increase, according to its survey, even though the rise now seems to be

Interestingly, the recovery in the housing market is delivering less of a feelgood factor than has been the case in the past. Arguably we do not need it.



More than £30bn has fullen into the laps of mutual society members, including Halifax borrowers, some of which has

been recycled into the real economy. Which brings me neatly on to the next pile of paper I need to read. As chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton, there are reams of opinion to digest ahead of our regular monthly meeting - some considered, some speculative. Among the more interesting items for inclusion in this week's deliberations was the continued remarkable performance of

'During that time of quiet that separated the 1987 crash from the Gulf War the flow of paper lessened. It was too good to last'

> Can this outperformance continue? Well, we know that consolidation and rationalisation are likely, but it is the potential cost-cutting that is exciting some analysts. It seems 125,000 people are likely to lose gainful employment within this industry over the next few years. This, at least, was the contention of a consultancy which sees an acceleration in the restructuring of the financial services sector.

Actually the consultancy was quite optimistic - 125,000 jobs may go, but 113,000 are set to be created. The bad news is that those likely to find

themselves as candidates for the dole queue are unlikely to fill the shoes put out by employers anxious to take advantage of new opportunities. According to Create, the originators of the report, those with creative, flexible minds are needed to deal with new customers and offer new services. It is the back-office jobs that will vanish.

Much of the bloodletting is likely to

take place in the banking world. Banks have certainly been in the vanguard of the market rise. The emotionally charged 5,000 barrier was breached decisively this week. It joins many other targets in falling to the bulls as the global rush into equities continues. Is Nemesis waiting around the corner? It is a foolish forecaster indeed who states that no correction will take place, but there is no sign that a reversal of

fortune is approaching.

In the US bears still outnumber bulls among professional managers. This suggests that there is still institutional liquidity waiting to go into the market.

It is undoubtedly true that the supply of equity is contracting as more firms institute share buy-back programmes. Much of the same scenario exists on

this side of the pond. Those managers brave (or foolhardy) enough to announce that cash is king have been taken apart by the market.

Of course, a trend is a trend until it stops. And stop it will at some stage. Meantime investors should remember that all the action is taking place in a small number of large companies. Look further down the list into the FTSE 250 and you will find prices are barely changed on average since the start of the year. Good value can still be found amongst mid cap stocks overlooked in the mad bull rush.

For those who hanker even smaller companies, it is worth considering Electra Investment Trust. A 20 per cent discount on "net asset value" must underestimate a business which has consistently delivered the goods. Not for widows and orphans, but at least a note on this company is unlikely to extend into the reams of paper with which I usually have to contend.

Brian Tora is chairman of Greig Middleton's investment strategy committee and can be contacted on 0171-655 4000.

The credit trap

Consolidating your debts may not be your best bet, writes Rachel Fixsen

uying on credit is so easy - it's Balmost as effortless as letting your credit bills get out of hand. Before you know it, monthly repayments can eat up most of your disposable income and you end up with little left to live on.

Short of winning the lottery, what can you do to escape from this trap? "People have got to be motivated to solve the problem before anything can be done about it," says one debt counsellor.

Financial advisers say many of their clients do not realise just how much interest is charged on the money they borrow, whether on credit cards, personal loans or car payment schemes.

Credit card balances can cost as much as 26 per cent in interest a year, personal loans cost up to 27 per cent and you could pay up to 41 per cent interest on an unauthorised overdraft, according to financial

data provider MoneyFacts. The effect of these rates can be crippling. For example, if you had a £1,000 balance on a furniture store card, a £600 balance on a department store card and owed £1,400 to Barclaycard, then you would probably have to pay a total of £700 a year in interest alone. Add to this repay ments on a £70,000 mortgage and a new car, and even someone earning £25,000 could find themselves stretched to meet

their minimum payments. Even if you can't really afford it, it is relatively simple to get access to credit. "The problem is, you can get a Dorothy Perkins store card, and then go next door, and get one from another shop," says Stuart Davidson, of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Many organisations share information about how much credit a person already has. This is called white data, as opposed to black data, which includes information about any county court judgements you

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might have against your name. When you owe here, there and everywhere, consolidating your debts often



Getting into debt does not have to mean a trip to the pawn shop

seems a attractive idea. If you have propgaging it to include the amount you would need to pay off your other lenders might make sense. The rate of interest you pay on your mortgage is likely to be

lower than on other borrowings. Sometimes you can get a personal loan at a relatively low interest rate. Royal Bank of Scotland Direct offers loans of between £2,000 and £15,000 at rates between 12.3 per cent and 13.9 per cent considerably less than most credit cards.

But Mr Davidson points out that as unsecured personal loans are often repaid over a longer period than store cards, you can end up paying more over the whole term.

first thing you should do is contact your lenders. "The majority will suspend the interest payments to help you get out of of this could be dire. difficulty," Mr Davidson says.

your borrowings unless you attack the root of the problem. Why did you overspend, and can you stop this pattern of behaviour? "Once you consolidate, if you then Citizens Advice Bureau.

take out more credit, then you aren't doing erty which is not fully mortgaged, remort- yourself any favours," he says. Younger people who have not settled down are especially apt to overspend. Spending on items which used to be regarded as luxuries is often seen as essential now.

Peter White, managing counsellor at the Consumer Credit Counselling Service, says staff at the service always work out a priority budget with their clients. You've got to pay your mortgage, council tax - and food tends to be habit-forming," he says. People can get into serious trouble by using available funds to pay to lenders who shout the loudest rather than

keeping up mortgage payments. Setting a watertight budget helps bring If you find yourself with problems, the it home to clients that any non-essential spending will mean having to forgo an essential payment, and the consequences

But there's no point in consolidating National Debtline, 0121-359 8501; Consumer Credit Counselling Service, 0800 138 1111; Look in the Yellow Pages under "Counselling and advice agencies" for the

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Investing You just for the thrill of it



Nic Cicuti

nvestment can mean many things. To a handful of people, investment means taking a gamble, as much for the fun of it as for the prospect of making spectacular returns.

Those who see themselves in this category are among a small number of savers who have been stealthily shifting their money into a range of investment trusts.

They are hoping not just for the returns one might normally expect from equity investments, but to squeeze an extra few per cent by punting on the likelihood that the huge discounts to many funds' net asset value will narrow substantially in the next few months.

The central premise of the strategy is useful for anyone considering how to obtain best value from their savings. The most important thing to understand is the concept of net asset value.

Investment trusts are closed-end funds. A trust is a company, with its own shares which you buy if you want to invest or sell if you are cashing in. The value of these shares is determined by a combination of their underlying assets - net asset value, or NAV - and investor sentiment about the trust itself. A trust can have, say, £100m of equities in a range of blue-chip companies, but only be worth £90m. When this happens, the investment trust is trading at a discount

to NAV. As our graph shows below, discount has narrowed and then widened again, from 12 to 5 per cent and back up to 12 per cent at present. In effect, the investment trust industry now has more than £60bn of assets under management, but the market capitalisation of investment trusts, what they are actually worth, is about £47bn.

To some observers, this widening of the discount has been a source of worry: investors in this sector are doing worse than if they had placed their money into unit trusts, for example.

Ernest Fenton, director general at the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), says: "No other investment product offers the opportunity of buying shares so cheaply. For every 88p invested you are acquiring assets of £1."

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It is this disparity that offers the potential for investors to make some gains by going against the grain of current investment sentiment.

Robbie Robertson, an investment trust analyst at Kleinwort Benson, says: With investment trusts, you have to be prepared to be something of a contrarian."

He argues it may be time to enter the market, judiciously, and take advantage of discounts narrowing again in future, "gearing up" on the investment.

If you were planning to invest in, for instance, a Far Eastern unit trust, it may now make sense to look at the same sector but with an investment trust. Emerging markets are another area

Sophisticated players are betting they

can squeeze

playing the

more money by

'discount' game where discounts to NAV are high and it may be worthwhile committing

So far so good. But the speculative potential does not end here. One of the features of last week's restructuring of the Fleming Far Eastern Trust, discussed in this column, was the degree to which it was prompted by an external raider", Elliott Associates. This was a US speculative fund which had the potential to cause trouble by pushing for the assets in the investment trust to be sold off. It may be worth looking at the activities of Andrew Schectel, whose US firm, Sierra Trading, is active in the market.

How does he pick investment trusts likely to face similar attentions in future? Charles Cade, an analyst at Merrill Lynch, suggests the first thing to look for is evidence of corporate activity generally.

For example, many trusts hold regular votes, on average between three and five years, by shareholders on whether to wind themselves up. If the discount to NAV is at least 12-15 per cent. investors would receive a decent return even after wind-up costs.

However, Mr Cade warns: "Govett's US Smaller Situations investment trust shareholders, who had such a vote last year, voted to continue.

Carolyn Coke, another nalyst at NatWest Securities, agrees that despite a very wide discount to NAV, which at one point reached 18 per cent, Govett's shareholders remained remarkably loyal.
One fund where a wind-up

vote will shortly be taking place is the Edinburgh Dragon Trust, again specialising in the Far East. This trust, whose shareholders vote in November, is trading at a

NAV discount of 13 per cent. What about other trusts where interesting corporate activity is nigh, or has already been taking place?

One fund which may have seen the activities of a raiding party is Govett Oriental, in the Far East including Japan sector. The fund, which has operated at a discount to NAV of up to 17 per cent, closed to a 12.8 discount. Kleinwort Overseas, in the international capital growth sector, is another fund to watch, Ms Coke suggests.

But she warns that speculation on this level is only suitable for sophisticated investors: "Some of the arbitrageurs are prepared to take a position many months ahead. They will also have hedged their funds, so that they are not forced to sustain heavy losses if the value of a fund were to fall."

Ultimately, Mr Cade argues, the purpose of investing must be to obtain good value. While investment trusts are ripe for a rebound on their NAVs, hoping to force the pace at a time of uncertain stock markets means risking a lot-

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You might find this a little painful Paying the dentist for treatment can hurt more than the work itself if you are not insured,

writes Nic Cicutti he next time your dentist asks you to open wide, make sure it's your mouth he is talking about and not your wallet. The mounting financial cost of having your teeth seen to means many

people may prefer painful gums to a

depleted bank balance. NHS dental fees are set by the Government, an issue which has led many dentists to complain that they are being paid too little for the services they provide. The result has been a gradual exodus by many dentists from the state system, leaving parts of the UK and some large cities without dentists willing to offer

Even if your dentist is prepared to see you on the NHS, costs can be high.

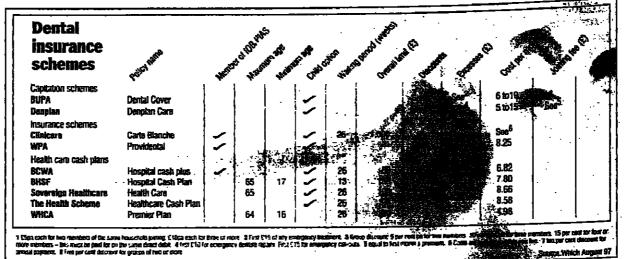
According to Which? magazine, which this month publishes a survey of dental insurance, you are required to pay 80 per cent of your dental costs up to £330 for each course of treatment. Anything over that amount, plus the remaining 20 per cent, is paid by the state.

By contrast, private treatment might cost up to £345 for a gold crown normally available on the NHS for £36, while a small filling for which you pay £4.64 on the NHS will set you back between £18 and £42 from a private practitioner.

While private dentists charge much more, arguably the service is better - at least from some members of the profession. In any case, whether or not this is true hardly matters if you are forced to go private because NHS dentists no nger practice in your area.

If you are paying private rates, insur-ance is one way of avoiding large and unexpected bills, while helping to spread the cost throughout the year. Some types of insurance also allow you to choose more expensive treatment, such as white fillings in back teeth instead of the metallooking amalgam.

There are three main types of cover available: capitation, dental insurance and health care cash plans.



Capitation schemes: These are budget plans, typically available from your local dentist. You register and are given an initial dental check based on which the practitioner decides how much you should pay on a regular basis. The average monthly cost is £10, although if your mouth looks like an indoor version of a moon crater, this can rise to £25 a week.

There are some potential snags with capitation schemes. One is that you are required to pay for work on your teeth identified in the initial check before you are allowed to join.

Expensive treatment may not be fully covered, but on the other hand cheaper cover means you won't be covered at all. Finally, dentists will only sign up to one medical insurance package.

insurer, which means you are given no choice. The most common is Denplan, owned by PPP, which specialises in health and long-term care insurance.

Dental insurance schemes: These simply repay the cost of private treatment to the dentist, with some offered by insurers as standalone policies and others part of a

You typically pay about £100 a year for such a package. But major work may not be covered, while there may also be an excess, leaving you to find the first £5 to £25 of any claim. There may also be a limit to the amount paid out each year or a waiting period before you are allowed to join. As with capitation schemes, you may not be allowed to join if your teeth are not up to scratch.

Health care cash plans: The treatment you receive is a integral part of a package which may include optical treatment and maternity benefits.

Premiums are calculated on a flat-rate basis paid monthly or weekly, and do not depend on the state of your teeth. The plan then pays out a proportion of any dental bills incurred, capped at an upper limit of £100, for instance. Payment takes the form of a reimbursement to you for treatment you have already paid for. The amount you receive depends on the cover you have bought.

However, in addition to the claim limit, you may find a long initial waiting period before making the first claim effectively negates the purpose of taking out such a scheme. Namely, the nasty pain in your upper left molar that drove you to check out the cost of insurance in the first place.

Best buys in name only

The advice you receive from an IFA may not be independent, writes Simon English

ow truly independent is the independent financial advice you acceive? Tens of thousands of customers at Bradford & Bingley might well ask themselves this question following a row between the building society and some of its rivals, who accuse it of only recommending the products of a handful of companies that pay commission to the society.

According to the rules laid down by the Personal Investment Authority, the financial watchdog, financial advisers can either be tied to one firm and sell only that independent, recommending from all available products.

The problem is that most big firms of independent advisers screen the products offered to investors. These so-called best-buy panels are widely used by large IFAs, though some are embarrassed to admit it.

When business newspaper Money Marketing tried to publish the best-buy panel of Bradford & Bingley, the largest high street IFA, its response was to threaten an injunction.

Why is the society touchy? For some time Bradford & Bingley has differentiated itself from other lenders by stressing the independence of its advice. Unlike most societies, its 400-strong team of advisers is able to recommend the most suitable

pension or investment rather than just one company's, or so they say. Yet a leaked best-buy list

shows that consumers who visit B&B to buy a pension of any kind get the choice of just six products -Commercial Union, Legal & General, Scottish Widows, Standard Life, Clerical

Medical or Sun Life. All of these companies are recognised and respected providers, but some experts claim the list is too short to constitute fully independent advice. So why do they do it? Virgin Direct makes the

point that all of the products listed pay commission to B&B. Why aren't any noncommission products recommended?

Virgin product development manager Martin Campbell says: "It is outrageous that customers who are told they are getting independent advice are being limited to just six pension companies out of the 70-plus in the market.

"I think these plans are a far cry from being the six best buys from a customer viewpoint and commissionfree plans don't even get a look in."

So will you get good advice from B&B? B&B's list is based on research into the performance of the fund managers. B&B makes the point that it spends thousands of pounds on researching which products best suit its clients. Best-buy panels are updated four times a year to keep companies on their toes.

The society claims to know precisely what kind of customers it gets and what kind of products they need. It is so confident of this, that for certain types of products there are only two options to choose from. If you are not on our

panel, B&B says, you just are not up to scratch. However, there are notable omissions from the panel.

Equitable Life, NPI Scottish Equitable and National Mutual Life are reckoned by most experts to pensions, but B&B doesn't Marketing manager Lynn

Colman says: "We start with the same universe as everyone else, but we screen lower. As we know our client base and what our customers' needs are, using best-buy panels enables us to look at the best products for our customers.

The plus point is that B&B is able to get deals for customers by being able to promise bulk sales. This could mean that it negotiates lower charges or special product enhancements.

On the downside, it could also mean that the society can demand high amounts of commission. Companies desperate to buy business and force themselves onto panels are offering higher and higher commission rates. up to 40 per cent more than that paid to small IFAs.

It would be a matter of grave concern if the best-buy tables started to reflect the providers with the deepest pockets rather than the best products.

B&B's rivals among IFA firms claim that six companies is far too short a list to pick from and that the use of best-buy panels makes a mockery of independent

Charles Levett-Scrivener at leading IFA firm Towry Law says: "If their advisers have got so few options, how can it be independent advice, even if they are good options?"

The PIA says it keeps a close eye on best-buy panels and will stamp down hard on any IFA which gives more than 20 per cent of its business to one company.

Spokeswoman Sarah Modlock says: "Firms must ensure that clients receive suitable advice. "Clearly this would not be

the case where an independent firm restricts itself to using the same small number of product providers and refuses to discuss products of firms outside that group."

For consumers, the question they ought to be asking next time they speak to a supposedly independent adviser should be: "Who else could you have recommended and how independent are you?"

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A matter of status

re you employed or self-employed and does it really matter? The answer is, it depends.

Take Bob, a 20-year-old who completed his apprenticeship. He was told there was no vacancy for him unless he considered self-

employed status. The employer's aim was to save on the tax and National Insurance he would be responsible for if Bob became an employee. Bob was employed on a fixedterm contract during his apprenticeship and had contracted out of his right to claim for unfair dismissal.

Self-employed workers are responsible for making their own Class 2 National Insurance contributions to the DSS. By contrast, employers are responsible for deducting employees' NI contributions from their

wage packets. In addition the employer must make a contribution which varies between 3 per cent and 10.2 per cent of the employee's salary depending on the level of pay.

Employees have the right, provided that the necessary NI contributions have been made, to statutory sick pay, maternity pay and unemployment benefit.

Benefits available to selfemployed workers are more limited. Although basic maternity and sickness benefits are available, there is usually no access to unemployment benefit. In addition there is no entitlement to industrial injuries benefit, additional earnings-related pensions or widow's benefits.

The self-employed have advantages. They can pay their tax bill up to two years in arrears and a category of work-related expenses can be set against tax.

In some situations it is difficult to tell whether a worker is self-employed. It is not sufficient for a worker

lan Hunter on the rights of self-employed workers

merely to call himself selfemployed and to make his own returns in respect of tax and NL The Inland Revenue and

DSS will, if requested, provide a ruling on a worker's status. Issues such as whether the worker has control over how and when he does his work, whether he provides his own tools, or decides on how the business is run, play a part in determining status. If the worker is deemed to be an employee, the employer will be responsible for any arrears of tax or NI contributions.

Workers concerned about their status should contact either the Citizens Advice Bureau or the Low Pay Unit for guidance.

After two years' employment, employees have a right not to be unfairly dismissed. Claims must be submitted to the industrial tribunal within three months of dismissal.

Awards are made up of two parts. The first tier, the basic award, consists of between £105 and £315 for each completed year of employment, depending on age. The second tier, the compensatory award, is subject to a maximum of £11,300.

As for tax and NI purposes, the industrial tribunal will not be deflected from finding that a worker is an employee, and therefore entitled to bring a claim, even if he is described as self-employed. Just because your employer tells you that you are self-employed does not make it necessarily true.

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First Direct, the telephone bank, is raising rates on its Tessa to 7.25 per cent on 11 August, which it claims is one of the best rates among major banks and building societies. Call 0800 482448.

Alliance & Leicester has for first-time buyers a mortgage package offering a fixed rate of 6.8 per cent until September 1999, plus a 1.5 per cent cashback on loan to values of 90 per cent or less. Arrangement fees of £150 apply and there are no valuation fees. A £50 store voucher is given for each completed application. Call 0800 412214.

Nationwide Building Society is launching a five-year World Guaranteed Equity Bond, linking returns to the world's biggest stock markets in the UK, USA, Japan, Germany, France and Switzerland. Repayment of the original capital is guaranteed. Minimum investment is £5,000, with bonuses added for investments made up to 14 September, Call 01793

NatWest and Gartmore, its investment management arm, are launcini discretionary portfolio management service aimed at people with £50,000 or more to invest. The service will use Gartmore and NatWest unit trusts. Charges

are related to the amount

invested. Call Paul Barlow

on 0171-895 5011 or Roger Bartley on 0171-782 2701. Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh fund manager, is launching a phased investment option for its investment trusts to protect against potential stock market falls in the next six to 12 months. Investments are held in a

deposit account and drip-fed

into shares. Call 0131-225

The Automobile Association is offering members who use its credit card £10 off the cost of upgrading their car cover, or £20 off the cost of gift membership. The card has no annual fee and charges 19.9 per cent APR. Call 01222 725978.

Norwich and Peterborough has increased rates paid across its savings accounts. For example, rates for HeadStart, its children's account, begin at 6 per cent gross up to a maximum of 7 per cent for £1,000 or more.

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Accordingly Student Loans Company Limited HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that with effect from 1 September 1997 the RATE OF INTEREST under such Loan Agreements is varied (in respect of the period from 1 September 1997) by being REDUCED from the present interest rate of 0.007307268% per day TO THE NEW INTEREST RATE of 0.007039786% per day (variable APR 2.6%)

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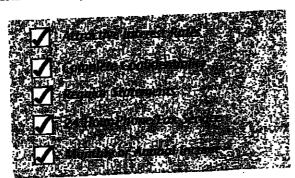
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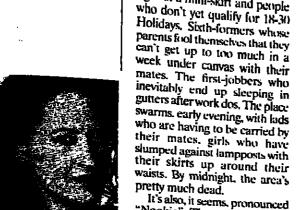






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TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY



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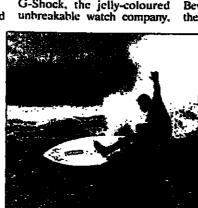
'Nookie". That was what the conductor called it as the train drew into the station. As if on cue, the half-dozen 17-year-old girls in my carriage, who were off, huge suitcases and separate make-up bags, to share a curavan, leapt from their seats and Piercedpressed themselves against the windows when their friend nosed shouted the magic word: Boys!" Where?" they cried. and longand fought to be first on the platform. They don't call it Nookie for nothing. stomached.

These girls were obviously not going to make it further than their caravan site, if they made it there at all. Which was a bit of a tragedy for them, because if they had found their way to Fistral beach they would have been in boy heaven. Fistral beach was heaving throughout last weekend with prime examples of the Boy thing: lean, muscled, toffee-skinned, salt-bleached Boys, mostly falling between the ages of 16 and 22, wearing rubber on the bottom half and, when they were out of the water, nothing on the top. Boys in cool sunglasses, boys with cool haircuts, boys who sat in the sand with their wrists wrapped round their ankles looking serene. Fistral beach, you see, was playing host to the Headworx Surf Festival, and another tribe was finding itself triumphant in the arena of Summer Tribalism.

Saturday was the finals, and the sun, though the rest of the country was awash, had played wasn't a single person on that

DAMIEN HURTS.... and his painfully creative struggle

ewquay is one of those ball and was forcing everyone to places that divides its tourist strip down to the bare minimum. population between people If you'd been unaesthetised, who lose their false teeth at the kidnapped and plonked down sight of a mini-skirt and people there, you would have sworn you Holidays. Sixth-formers whose had been battling it out, four at weren't in England. The surfers parents fool themselves that they a time, in 20-minute heats, since can't get up to too much in a the previous Tuesday, and the week under canvas with their semis were made up of Brazilians, Australians and Californiinevitably end up sleeping in ans because, though most gunters afterwork dos. The place extreme sports enthusiasts like swarms, early evening, with lads to see themselves as more or less who are having to be carried by anti-establishment, the marketing potential of their activities hasn't gone unnoticed. The their skirts up around their labels queue up to put money waists. By midnight, the area's into spectacles like this: G-Shock, the jelly-coloured



sponsor the whole world series, and other labels fight to put their names on the national heats: thanks to Headworx, Cherry Coke, CK specs and £100,000 of prize money, Cornwall has its place on the world surfing map. No one needs to rob banks to follow the waves these days: sponsorship does it for you.

Knots of staggeringly beautiful bodies drifted up and down the sands, drank from bottles of mineral water, elegantly draped backs of wrists over eyebrows to help them squint at the action out on the water. Last year's competition drew 250,000 people over the week, which must have meant that the whole of the rest of Britain was even dingier than usual. Pierced-nosed and longstomached, they stood and sat and said not a word to each other: merely gazed at the waves like a chocolate advert. There the simple pronoun, "My hair's

beach who wasn't auditioning for something Baywatch, Point Break 11. Invasion of the Bodysnatchers, The Midwich Cuckoos.

And when they got on to their boards, they became demigods. From the cliff, hobbing among the breakers in black wetsuits, they looked like a flock of cormorants. But suddenly one would catch a wave, rush inland, gain his feet and turn into a porpoise. They glided down and up, flipped into the air, turned full circles, tossed their manes and were carried by the force of their own momentum all the way up onto the sand. Whenever this happened, the crowd developed that eerie animation of Beverly Hills High: punching the air and shricking "whoo!". I understood what they

meant, though: this was cool in action. After the final siren, Rob Pescado, hot favourite but ultimately untriumphant, rode back in from a couple of hundred vards out on a single wave. standing upright, no tricks. He waved to a couple of kids on the rocks, and then. leisurely, looked down to check the time on his G-Shock. I melted. We caught a cab back to Nookie Central, where

Bernard Manning plays live every Tuesday night and men in vests jingle change in their pockets and fondle their red bits as they feed the fruit machines in the arcades. Sunday morning, we woke to torrential rain. The picture windows of the hotels were heaving with dismal families who sat in rows and ignored each other. I wandered the streets, got excited about finding a tearoom called the Copper Kettle, considered buying a miniature St Michael's Mount for £14.95 or a pearlised loo-roll holder with rampant pixie for £1.99. In the fudge shop on the main street, I found myself standing next to a barefoot Adonis with small goatee beard and pierced nose. "It's lucky it wasn't like this yesterday," I said shyly. He grinned. "Strewth, I know," he said, contriving to fit all five vowels into

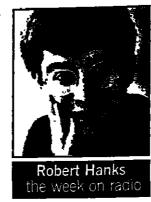
as wet as a dingo's belly.

Neil Kerber

Show the world who's boss

t's possible that in a few years' time, once the dust has settled, historians will come to see that the most destructive phenomenon of the 20th century has been the dominance of management theory. This may sound unlikely, but consider the competition: Stalinism. Nazism - aren't these extreme applications of management theory? What was the Cultural Revolution but reengineering? What was the First World War but an ambitious example of downsizing, carried out by governments

working in co-operation? What links all these things and management theory is that they all involve reducing people to numbers - perceiving them in essentially economic terms, as units of production and consumption. Certainly Haig's management of his bit of the Western Front during the Great War makes far more sense if you work on the assumption that he regarded conscripted soldiers as disposable, a regrettably inefficient means of mopping up enemy firepower, like a sort of human kitchen-roll. The connection wasn't made framing device for an informa-



explicitly, but certainly seemed to lie behind Time and Motion Man (Radio 4, last Saturday), a dramatised feature about Frederick Winslow Taylor, the American industrialist who invented time-and-motion stud-ics. In 1911, Taylor testified before a special congressional committee after the introduction of his management methods into American arsenals and navy yards had sparked protests and strikes, and Mark Rickards used the transcripts (performed by the excellent Colin Stinton and Shane Rimmer) as the tive, impressionistic study of how lives have been damaged by the pursuit of efficiency.

Behind Taylor's theories lay a benevolent justification: that only by increasing productivity could mankind raise his standard of living. But as he saw it. such an increase faced two massive obstacles: the laziness and the stupidity of the working man. The solution, Taylor decided, was minute supervision, to get the working man to work more efficiently, and to stop him skiving off to the toi-

lets for a fag every 10 minutes. Taylor's attempt to formulate principles of scientific man-agement clearly had a lot in common with the Marxist attempt to create a scientific version of history. In both cases, an enterprise that started out with philanthropic aims ran up against the profoundly irrational, irreducible nature of human desire; and, in both cases, the result was conflict. But admitting that resemblance, and the awfulness of management theory, you could still feel that Rickards' pro- respect, an inefficient programme went a tad over the top, with its great slabs of all round.

elegiac string music. In the end, all that it came up with to condemn Taylor was some sub-Arthur Miller rhetoric, some archive tape of Margaret Thatcher on the need to produce more, and extracts from I'm.All Right, Jack. This is hardly the court of history in session.

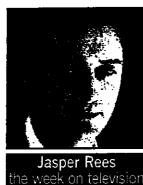
For a more balanced view of management, turn to Patrick Wright's Here Comes the Boss (Radio 4, Friday), billed as a history of changing ideas about management. The first two programmes looked at British industry's post-war enthusiasm for adopting military methods, and Wilfred Brown's experiments in worker participation in the Fifties and Sixties. This week, Wright introduced us to "Excellence" - a distressingly vague concept taken up enthusiastically by local councils in West Yorkshire in the 1980s. As a result, Huddersfield played host to a concert by REM. It would have been nice to know whether Wright regarded this as a triumph or an absurdity; so in this gramme. Otherwise, excellence

I fear the Greeks baring breasts

t was a week of mixed fortunes for British commentators out in Athens for World Athletics (BBC1 and

BBC2, all week).
"The thing for John is to hold that position," said Brendan Foster of our man in the 1,500 metres final, and within nanoseconds he had been overtaken by all those runners who weren't already in front of him. He finished ninth. Still, in times of trial, it's important to think positive, and there's no doubt that the world champi onships have provided a useful learning curve for our commentary squad. In their armoury they now have more ways of saying "And he'll be really disappointed with that performance" than any other box in the world. And when it comes to building up the viewers' hopes of national victory, they can henceforth be confident of a place on the rostrum at the very least. This week, silver (to go with all the others): the gold was a shoe-in for their Greek hosts.

Though perhaps the most inappropriate city in Europe to hold a track and field meet in August, Athens was a lovely place for the well fanned fan to zap into in an armchair, what with its rim of ancient hills that the camera glimpsed above the lip of the stadium every time it followed the swirling parabola



of the javelin's trajectory. How evocative, you mused, socratically. How Hellenic: these witnesses to sporting deeds of yore have been around almost as long as David Coleman. There's none of that in your airconditioned Stockholm and your utilitarian Stuttgart, where the small screen struggles to convey a sense of place, to pass on the character of the crowd. No problem in Athens. they had to make do with a the crowd being stuffed with bubbling, squeaking Greeks. A week long anthropological study of their collective behaviour yielded the unavoidable conclusion that they have lost their marbles as well as

> their Marbles. Aware that the Greekness of the atmosphere would be a feature of the championships, Stuart Storey had spent the winter rifling through his attic for mythological references.

the turf not much behind his high jumper looked actually like one of the Greek gods who happened not to be shining on the Greek javelin-thrower. Coleman seemed to think his name was Panegyric Topless. After every jump he took his of a battlefield is second top off, fulfilling the prophecy nature. If he'd only patented in his name. But the most prophetic name belonged to a probably sue for plagiarism. Bermudan sprinter. He was called Troy, whom you half expected to be undone by a

wooden horse. Masterchef (BBC1, Sun) sprinted to the tape at the end of its current series with a half an eye on the events in Athens. Barry's honey and ginger sauce think, but it's actually creepier reminded Lord Gowrie of "ancient Greek cooking", final (in which our boy "was though quite how he'd know what ancient Greek cooking ian runner Morceli was overtastes like is anyone's guess. taken on the line because he David Coleman, having been around the block, could rather than his back. "He was probably have filled him in.

Game of War (C4, Sun) was also down in that neck of the

"And the Greek gods are not shining down on him just at this a board game, is possibly the stage," he said after one local most synthetic hybrid ever javelin-chucker had impaled inflicted on an innocent viewing public. Only on Channel 4. own toes. Note that use of the Each side was commanded by word "stage", a quiet but a flesh-and-blood British genauthoritative allusion to the eral talking stiffly out of the fact that we were guests at the side of his mouth. Knowing the birthplace of tragedy. And, luck our chaps have been suf-indeed, comedy. The Greek fering this week, you'd have put money on both of them losing. For some reason Angela Rippon is a presenter, rather than Peter Snow, for whom the business of moving plastic artillery around a scale model his act on Newsnight, he could

But hey, television is an inbred medium these days. Take the huge video screen in the stadium back to Athens. "In this day and age," explained Storey, "you can watch yourself win while winning." Par for the post-modern course, you'd that. In the 1500-metre ninth, by the way"), the Algerwas watching his own image watching himself finish third." said Storey. "And he finished fourth." You couldn't come up woods, re-running the Battle of with a more cautionary tale of Balaklava. This new series. the damaging effects of too which basically recreates much television.

Whatever happened to... Radical magazines

War of Words

Once the printing press was invented, its importance as a means of idea distribution was quickly realised. Pravda was founded in 1912 by Lenin and had a circulation at times exceed-

PASANDA BABY I WANT TO OF COURSE DAMEY YES. I LIKE THE AIR TO GET INTO MY PAINT YOU WITH NO CLOTHES ON.

ing 10m copies a day.
In Britain, Marxism Today was called the "last repository of thought" by Fay Weldon, coined the term Thatcherism, and, according to MP Chris Patten, ing that "our readers don't want

for serious grown-ups. In the Seventies, there was a

TO ENTER MY INNER BEING.

wave of feminist publishing, at the forefront of which stood Spare Rib magazine.

Political Minefield

After the collapse of Communism in 1991, Pravda's circulation shrunk to 200,000. In 1996, it became a lifestyle tabloid, claim-

"treated politics as an adventure some long, boring article taking In 1994, a new magazine called up a whole page.

In Britain, Marxism Today was crushed by debt in 1992. Its former editor, Martin Jacques, set up a think-tank called Demos. calling it a "catalyst for a different, less ideological politics".

Popular Politics

Europe and The World

Marxism Today was succeeded by Red Pepper, a left-of-centre what passes for a revolutionary political and cultural magazine. what passes for a revolutionary is piti-

Prospect was designed to appeal to a "sceptical age", or what Charles Seaford the magazine's publisher called "intellectual

This month, the magazine Class War magazine has shut itself down with the epitaph: "In short,

AA Roadwatch

Closed until January 1998.

both ways until further notice.

sures both ways until July 8th.

traflow near M1 J24.

Temp lights on Ashton Rd

Roadworks at Killingworth. West Yorks, MI J47. Major long-term roadworks until Sept 15.

closed northbound until further notice

Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area

North Yorks, A19 Thornaby-on-Res.

Out and about with AA Road-watch cell 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls

Son rises 5:36am Sun sets 8:34pm

Full Moon: August 18

ther notice.

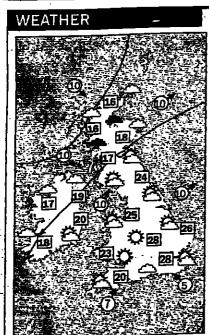
Instrumental to protests against the Criminal Justice Bill, it resisted Thatcherism, inspiring direct action groups that such magazines stand alongside attracted the attention of Special Branch.

What hope?

Spare Rib, said: "In the 1960s Spare Rib, said: "In the 1960s won each day. there was a lot of underground Jennifer Rodger

ful ... " Class War had, at its magazines like Oz and Friends. height, a circulation of 15,000. Out of this came the political magazines Red Dwarf, Inc. and 7 Days, driven by passionate and narrowly focused beliefs. Now

the mainstream. Editors might bear in mind what Sartre once said, that democracy and freedom is a Rosie Boycott, co-founder of battle that must be fought and



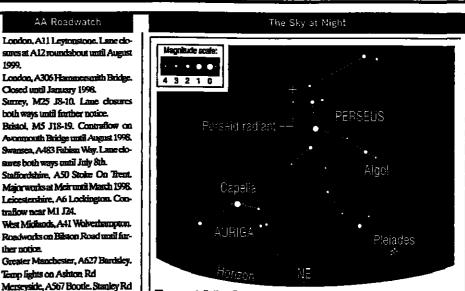
8-50pm 9:07pm 🖢

General Situation and Outlook: England and Wales will have a mostly fine, hot day with any early morning fog soon ern Ireland will be much more cloudy with sprinkles of rain, although the south-eastern fringes should have a little warm sunshine, and it may clear up in the far north-west.

The British Isles

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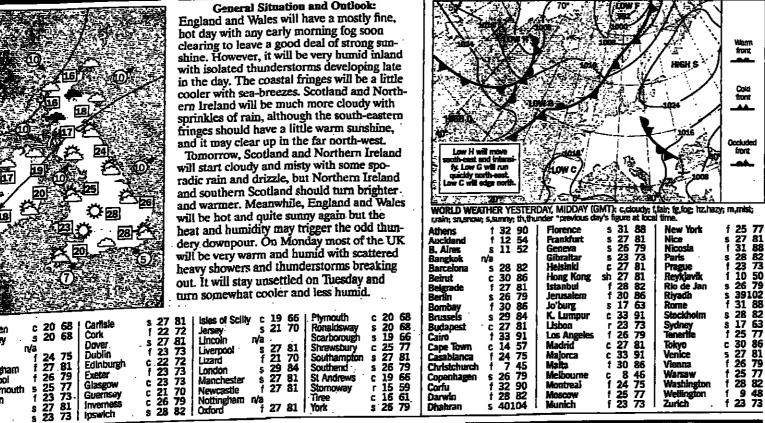
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The constellation Perseus, with the radiant of the Perseid meteor shower lying close to its border, rises over the north-eastern horizon around 11pm BST this week. Its position at midnight is shown here.

This is the week to look for meteors (shooting stars). The Perseid shower, peaking on the night of the 11th / 12th could well produce the most prolific display of the year. But not only that, meteor watching in the relatively balmy air of an August night is a pleasant pastime anyone can enjoy. By comparison, observing the great winter meteor showers demands more dedication. Predictions based on recent years suggest that meteors could rain down at an enhanced rate - up to 3 or 4 a minute - over a short period sometime between about 3.00a.m. and 7.00a.m. BST in the early morning of the 12th. However, the bright streaks may flash across the sky at any time during the night, especially between midnight and dawn. The odd Perseid might be spotted on any night between now and about 20th August. Though the sky tracks will all trace back to the radiant in Perseus, Though the sky utacks will all dides seen over a wide area of sky, not just in Perseus.

Jacqueline Mitton



TODAY'S TELEVISION

Gerard Gilbert recommends Match of the Day Sat 10.50pm BBC1

ball season as much as the next person. It's just that you would think that they'd let the athletics and cricket finish first. It's hard enough in this country to differentiate between winter and summer as it is.

Match of the Day (Sat BBC1) is a resilient survivor - a veritable phoenix, in fact. You might have forgotten, but there was many a dark, Jimmy Hill less Saturday evening between 1988 and 1992 before the BBC came to an agreement with Sky to show Premiership highlights. It really did look as if Match of the Day had gone the way of Dixon of Dock Green and Dicky Davies - and I well remember the slight sense of nostalgia-tinged embarrassment when that famous theme tune was cranked out again. Now, however, Match of the Day is entrenched back in the nation's viewing habits, their post-match

on't get me wrong. I'm looking forward to the new footcavorting with computer technology. Tonight, they're showing newly-promoted Barnsley's home match against West Ham United, and Wimbledon at home to Liverpool. Sky's Live Football (Sun Sky Sports 1) has Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United – Teddy Sheringham getting a faster return

to White Hart lane than he must have anticipated. I do hope that Planet Islam (Sun BBC2) is not going out unwatched and unloved. It is a truly excellent series enlightening and with impressive access to its subject. Foreign affairs journalism at its best, in fact. Last week, they showed the chasm between French Muslims and the host culture. In tomorrow night's film, William Shawcross's admirably terse commentary takes us to the further reaches of the former Soviet empire; to Tatarstan, where historic enmities between

And the barely reported war in the nominally independent Tajikstan, where Russian troops attempt to stem the tide of Islam pouring over the frontier with Afghanistan. There are 30 million Muslims in the former Sovier republics - and 12 million in Mother Russia herself. Scores of wars in the making, each with the potential to dwarf Bosnia and Chechnya.

After the punchiness of Planet Islam, this week's Omnibus (Sun BBC1) is annoyingly diffuse. It's a film about Rudyard Kipling -a search for the secret Kipling -as possibly revealed by his lost manuscript Mother Manusin. Did the poet of Empire have a secret love - maybe a native Indian girl. But before we get involved in all this, we have to get to know our narrator, an out-of-work actor called Mace Richards, and interest ourselves in the reasons for his interest in Kipling, if you see what

Russian Christians and Tartar Muslims are again evident.

And the barely reported was in the again. The enduring image is of Kipling's son, John, having running across the battlefield. his jaw missing and tears streamng down his face. He was 16 and no one saw him again. Four, after much trumpeting, finally Goes to Glynebourne (Sat C4) for Rossini's Le Comic On, and The Dynasty. the Nehru-Gandhi Story (Sat BBC2) gets to Indira. Nehru's daughter was consistently underestimated - she was ugly, people said (yet she charmed foreign aid out of both Lyndon Johnson and Kosygin), she was unintelligent, she would disappear in a military coup. In the end the coup was all hers. Breeding would out, however, and after 18 months of emergency Indira called for an election. Her son, Sanjay, was appalled. India's tradition of democracy, it seems, was what was salvaged when Sanjay's light aircraft crashed, taking its pilot with it.

BBC 1

6.00 World Athletics. Early action, including the women's marathon (S) (61075373).

8.45 Children's BBC: Marvel Action Hour (936354). 9.45 Grange Hill (507606). 10.15 Sweet Valley High (522915).

10.42 Weather (7809460). 10.45 Grandstand: Cricket – Fifth Test. England v Australia. Live coverage from Trent Bridge (90178441). 1 00 News (51524151). 1.05 Football Focus (4298880). 1.40 Cricket (4214828). 2.40 Racing from Haydock: the 2.45 Harvey Jones Rated Stakes (1708170). 2.55 Cricket (3271441). 3.10 Racing from Haydock: the 3.15 Petros Rose of Lancaster Stakes (4124083). 3.25 Cricket (4129538). 3.40 Racing from Haydock: the 3.50 Coral Handicap Stakes (6678977). 4.00 World Athletics. Live coverage from Athens: 4.10 Women's 800m final. 4.25 Women's long-jump final. 4.30 Men's 4 x 100m first round. (7190118). 4.40 Final Score

(2623460). 5.10 World Athletics. Further live coverage from Athens. 5.10 Women's javelin final, 5.15 Men's 4 x 400m semi-final. 5.45 Women's 4 400m semi-final. 6.15 Women's 5,000m final (9909880).

6.35 News, Weather (T) (184083). 6.45 Local News, Weather (450538). 6.50 The Pink Panther (R) (573828). 7.10 Confessions. Simon Mayo and more

uninteresting, light-entertainment revelations (S)(7) (876996). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Bob Monkhouse hosts, Darnage sings, and Anne Gregg reports on the latest good cause to receive lottery nunificence (S)(T) (686151).

8.10 Bugs. The master design disc of a new £100 note goes missing. Jan Harvey and Paula Hunt guest star (S)(T) (591489).

9.00 HEAT In the Blink of an Eye (Micki Dickoff 1996 US). Above-average TV movie based on the experiences of the director, Micki Dickoff, who usually makes documentaries. Played by Veronica Hamel, Dickoff discovers that a childhood friend (played by Mimi Rogers) is serving life for the murder of two police officers. One visit persuades her that her friend is innocent (S)(T) (7422).

10.30 News, Sport, Weather (168606). 10.50 Match of the Day. See Preview, above (S)(T) (4927977). of the Pops (S)(T) (38652). 12.30 Glearning the Cube (Graeme Clifford 1988 US). Christian Slater plays a teenage skateboarder

investigating the murder of his adopted Vietnamese brother by LA gangsters (S) (863229). 2.15 Weather (1526213). To 2.20am. REGIONS. Scot: 10.45 Grandstand from Scotland: 10.50 Cricket. 12.00 Golf. 1.40 Golf. 2.55 Golf. 3.25 Golf. 4.40 Afternoon Sportscene. 10.50 Sportscene: Match of the Day.

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Fontainebleau: The Changing Image of Kingship (1297903), 6.45 A Question of Balance? (9464373). 7.10 Structural Components (7712064). 7.35 Inside SOI (4604460). 8.00 Open Saturday

10.30 Brainwaves (R) (2317557). 10.40 The Phil Silvers Show, Bilko opens a Chinese restaurant (3891248).

11.05 Hancock's Half Hour (R) (6536286). 11.30 CountryFile. John Craven has some

more rural issues (S) (5828). 12.00 EIEM The Adventures of Halli Baba (Don Weis 1954 US). Hajji Baba tums out to be a scantily clad John Derek, swashbuckling his way across the Arabian desert for the love of princess Elaine Stewart in this suitably daft sand 'n' sandals yarn (T) (54880).

1.30 The Adventures of Quentin Durward (Richard Thorpe 1955 US). This time the swashbuckling is undertaken by Robert Taylor in 15thcentury Europe, in a tale based, like Taylor's earlier Ivanhoe, on a Sir Walter Scott novel. Filmed on location in the Loire Valley, which seemed enough to attract co-stars of the calibre of Kay Kendall, Robert Morley and Alec (father of Martin) Clunes (T) (71200034).

3.10 The Saint (R) (1117538).

4.00 Cricket - Fifth Test. England v Australia Live coverage up to the close of the third-day's play at Trent Bridge (82166354). 6.35 World Athletics. Live action from the World Athletics championships: the women's 4 x 100m relay final and the semi-finals of the men's 4 x 100m relay.

Plus, a review of the day's events (S)(T) (2265064).
7.45 Building Sights. Jools Holland chooses the building which, in his opinion, offers the best view of London, Canary Wharf (R)(S)(T) (217170).

7.55 News, Sport, Weather (T) (204606). 8.10 The Dynasty: the Nehru-Gandhi Story. See Preview, above (S)(T) (582731). 9.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely

Lads? Bob joins Terry for a quiet weekend's fishing (R)(T) (4335).

9.30 Our Friends in the North. 4/9. It's 1970 in the rerun Peter Flannery epic. Nicky and Geordie meet up in London. They are worlds apart - Geordie is a drunken porn merchant and Nicky a fiery political terrorist. But the police are after both of them (R)(S)(T) (8697441).

10.50 This Life. "Apocalypse Wow". Another chance to see the final (possibly for ever) episode of this deservedly popular rusone or mis deservedly popular Yuppie soap. It's Miles's wedding and the question, of course, is can he go through with it. That's not the only twist, though (S)(7) (900915).

triougn (S/II) (900919).

11.35 International Golf. Highlights of the first day of the Walker Cup (S) (328557).

12.35 Cricket – Fifth Test. Highlights of England v Australia (Followed by

Weatherview) (S) (8832126). 1.20 FIGH The Informers (Ken Annakin 1963 UK). Nigel Patrick of the Yard enters the London underworld in this would-be gritty tale; which should be of historical interest, taking place as it does on the cusp of the Kray era. Derren Nesbitt, Frank Finlay, Harry Andrews and Roy Kinnear (playing someone called Shorty) lend characterful support (154039). To 3.00am.

ITV/LWT

6.00 GMTV: News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30 Barney and Friends. 6.50 Our House. 7.10 Bug Alerti 7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.50 Big Rod Dosthbarn. 620 420 15 Bad Beetleborgs (7843915). 9.25 Mashed (S) (28278606). 11.00 The Chart Show (S) (7989719).

11.00 The Chart Show (S) (7989719).
11.45 F1: Hungarian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Jim Rosenthal introduces live coverage of the qualifying session (S) (417064).
1.15 News, Weather (7) (51547002).
1.20 London Weekend Today (80458809).
1.25 The Maiding of Speed 2 (10885151).
1.55 Seed The Golden Voyage of Sinhad (Gordon Hessler 1973 UK). John Philip Law makes a stiff sinhad, upstaged anyway by Ray Harryhausen's special effects (41352373).
3.50 The Cosby Mysteries (S) (3787286).

special effects (41352373).
3.50 The Cosby Mysteries (S) (3787286).
4.45 News, Sport, Weather (7) (5432809).
5.05 London Weetend Toright (2884996).
5.25 F1: Hungarian Grand Prix - Special.
Latest news (S) (2897460).
5.45 Lone Ma Dr. Lattwood's wingard to 5.45 Love Me Do. Last week's winners tie the knot, Disney-style, in Florida. Sounds grim (S)(7) (592977).

Channel 4

6.45 Dennis (R) (7749489). 7.05 Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (5120460). 7.35 The Finder (R) (4606828). 8.00 Transworld Sport (14335).

9.00 Morning Line. A look ahead to the day's racing (\$) (81422). 10.00 Channel 4 Athletics. Steve Cram and Nick Fellows host an athletics magazine (S) (73828).

11.00 Mission Impossible (T) (53064). 12.00 Rawhide (29422). 1.00 SILM The Purple Heart (Lewis Milestone 1944 US). After a US aircraft is shot down over Tokyo during the

Second World War, the crew are placed on trial and charged with murdering Japanese civilians. Hard-hitting but fairly conventional wartime heroics from the one-time director of All Quiet on the Western Front (T) (98629624). 2.50 Racing from Newmarket. Derek Thompson introduces the 3.05, 3.35,

4.10 and 4.10 races (41326606). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S)(T) (2595373).



Match of the Day 10.50pm BBC1
As the season kicks off, can Wimbledon stand up against Liverpool?

6.30 The Big, Big Talent Show. Jonathan Ross manages the hyperbolic talent scouting show (S)(T) (193915).
7.25 You've Been Framed! (R)(S) (454354).

7.55 EUR You Only Live Twice (Lewis Gilbert 1967 US). The Japanese Bond, the one with the hollow volcano and Donald Pleasence's Blofeld stroking his white Persian. Scripted by Roald Dahl, Sean Connery is in expansive mood in this his fifth 007 outing

(T) (82279880). News, Weather, Lottery Result (7) (276002).

10.15 Desperate Hours (Michael Cimino 1990 US). Desperate is the word as Cimono's huge vision is squeezed into this remake of the claustrophobic 1955 Bogart thriller. Mickey Rourke and killer chums hide out in the house of Vietnam Vet Anthony Hopkins, wife Mimi Rogers and two kids (S)(T) (649996).

12.15 In Bed with Medinner (S) (44855). 12.45 Files Lies before Kisses (Lou Artonio 1990 US). Jaclyn Smith stars in this glossy melodrama, with Ben Gazzara and Nick Mancuso (104805).

2.25 Box Office America (9628687). 2.55 Carnal Knowledge (R) (4790132). 3.50 Sound Bites (74273229). 4.10 Rockmania (R)(S) (8707519). 5.00 Cybernet (64652). To 5.30am.

6.35 Access! All Areas: House Gang. Australian sitcom about people with arning disabilities (689828). 7.00 4 Goes to Glyndebourne: Le Comte Ory.

See Preview, above (S) (389460). 10.00 HIM The Omen (Richard Donner 1976 US). American ambassador Gregory Peck and wife Lee Remick give birth to the anti-Christ in this well-cast sataric thriller. David Warner and Billie

Whitelaw co-star (S)(T) (87145444). 12.05 FUEL To the Devil ... a Daughter (Peter Sykes 1976 UK). Another satanic thriller, and this one (out of Dennis Wheatley's book) has Denholm Elliott signing over his daughter (a 17-year-old Nastassia Kinski) to excommunicated priest Christopher Lee. Richard Widmark, Honor Blackman and Anthony Valentine help out (176045).

aughs (R) (7510497). 2.20 The Twilight Zone (6565497). 2.45 Pearl. Sitcom (27132). 3.15 The Naked Truth (R)(S)(T) (24045). 3.45 Get Up, Stand Up (R)(S) (23316). 4.15 Porkpie (R)(S)(T) (2224758). 4.50 Dweebs (R)(S) (70581132). 5.15 Partners (R)(S) (3976403). 5.40 Channel 4 Athletics (R) (S) (2988519).

Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (6527544). 6.30 The Great Garden Game. Teams are presented with a gardening challenge at Tatton Park near Manchester (R)(S)(T)

(9(J48489). 7.00 5 News Early (S) (6576847). 7.30 Havakazoo (6555354). 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmanks (2988625). 8.30 Land of the Lost (2987996). 9.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (9470354). 9.55 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (6669828). 10.50 Mag Upfront (S) (52158793). 11.00 Turnstyle. Preview of the first day's action in the Premiership and the

football league (S) (28449248). 12.50 5 News (S)(T) (59713170). 1.00 The Mag. Josie D'Arby introduces the afternoon entertainment slot in which young people generate their own news, reviews, gossip, fashion and comedy

(S) (8515278). 2.00 USA High. Teenage sitcom about the students of an American school in Paris

2.20 The Mag (Continued) (S) (8521441). (S) (69322170). 3.15 Surset Beach Omnibus (80068373). 6.00 5 News and Sport (S)(T) (8595101). 6.05 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys (S)

(9311809). 6.55 Xena: Warrior Princess (6125118). 7.50 5 News and Sport (S)(T) (9483118). 8.10 JAG. Adventure series about a Navy lawyer (2495335).

9.00 FILM Ethan Frome (John Madden 1992 US/UK). Less ambitious in scale than Martin Scorsese's Age of Innocence, this contemporary Edith Wharton adaptation (an "American Playhouse" production) tells its tale simply and effectively enough all the same. Liam Neeson is the eponymous New England farmer, stuck in a loveless marriage with sickly Joan Allen, and finding temporary release with cousin Patricia Arquette (50882903).

10.50 FIRM Paris or Somewhere (Brad Turner 1995 Can). Modest Canadian TV movie that takes its plot from John Synge's classic play The Playboy of the Western World. Callum Keith Rennie plays the handsome American stranger and selfconfessed killer who wanders into and dazzles a small community in the

Canadian prairies (57905809). 12.35 Fearing that his Pentagon bosses want to subvert his humanoid robot for military ends, scientist Christopher Plummer kidnaps his own invention. But the robot is unhappy... (6571126). 2.30 Initiation (Michael Pearce 1987 Aus). Still up? Oh right. This one stars

Rodney Harvey as a Brooklyn teenage who moves to Australia (4241565). 4.05 Having Wonderful Time (Alfred Santell 1938 US). Dampened down about New Yorkers on holiday in the Catskills. A lively, attractively cast endeavour, nevertheless, starring Ginger Rogers, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Lucille Ball and a very young Red Skelton (billed as Richard Skelton)

(89865774). 5.15 The Road (66859229). 5.30 Whittle (6591229). To 6.00am.

ITV/Regions

AliGLA
As London except: 1.20pm Anglia News and
Weather (80458809). 1.25 Film: Topaz
(29972880). 3.50 seaQuest DSV (3787286).
5.05 Anglia News, Sport and Weather (2893644).
5.20 Cartoon (9958002). 12.15 Film: The
5.20 Cartoon (9958002). 1.55 Rockmania (6181768). 5.20 Cartoon (9958002). 12.15 Film: The Chase (302805). 1.55 Rockmania (6181768). 2.55 Film: Desert Rats (2509872). 4.05 Jones and Jury (34432519). 4.35 - 5.30am Comedy. Central (3215229).

CERTRAL
As London except: 1.20pm Central News and Weather (80458809). 1.25 Airwolf (6760170). Veather (80458809). 1.25 Airwolf (6760170). 2.20 Films: Please Turn Over* (191199). 3.55 Baywarch (3499915). 5.05 Central News and Weather (9944809). 5.10 IfV Sport Classics (2801625). 4.10 Jobfinder (9475942). 5.20 - 5.30am Asian Eye (6376045).

As London except: 1.20pm HTV News (80458809). 1.25 ITV Sport Mini Classics (80440880). 1.30 seaQuest DSV (5276996). 2.20 The Cosby Mystenes (4544335). 3.15 Films The Rescue (782880). 5.05 HTV Wales News (2813460). 6.16 Coston Time (2810620). 13.16 The Rescue (782880). 5.05 HTV Wates News (2813460). 5.15 Carbon Time (2819644). 12.15 Film: The Chase (302805). 1.55 Rockmanua (6181768). 2.55 Film: Desert Rats (2509872). 4.05 Jones and Jury (34432519). 4.35 - 5.30am Comedy Central (3215229).

As HTV Wales except: 1.25pm West Match Week-end (80440880). 3.15 Film: Rising Damp (782880). 5.05 - 5.15pm HTV West News and Weather (2813460).

MERIDIAN
As London except: 1.20pm Meridian News and
Weather (80458809). 1.25 Tall Ships 97
(10885151). 1.55 Film: Guns of the Magnificent
Seven (41352373). 3.50 seaQuest DSV
(3787286). 5.00 Meridian News and Weather
(2885625). 5.20 Carbon (9958002). 12.15 Film:
The Cheer (402805). 1.55 Pardmania (6181768). The Chase (302805). 1.55 Rockmania (6181768). 2.55 Film: Desert Rats (2509872). 4.05 Jones and Jury (34422519). 4.35 - 5.30am Comedy Central (3215229).

As London except: 1.20pm Westcountry News (51535267), 1.30 The 1997 Headwork Surf Fes-(51535267), 1:30 The 1997 Headworx Surf Festival (41644), 2:00 Film: The Amazing Capitain Nemo (489606), 3:55 Thunder in Paradise (3499915), 5:00 Westcountry News (2894373), 5:15 Cartoon (2819644), 12:15 Film: The Chase (302805), 1:55 Rockmania (6181768), 2:55 Film: Desert Rats (2509872), 4:05 Jones and Jury (34432519), 4:35 - 5:30am Cornedy Central (3215229). Central (3215229).

As London except: 1.20pm Calendar News and Weather (80458809). 1.25 Airwolf (6760170). 2.20 - 3.50 Film: Mad about Men (8874793). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (9944809). 5.10 Scoreline (2801625). 12.15 Film: Discregarized Crime (719294). 2.05 ITV Phoenix (6747129). 3.00 Coach (82018922). Festival (6747132). 3.00 Coach (82018942). 3.25 Funny Business (82191229). 3.55 Helter Skelter (8134300). 4.45 - 5.30am Murder, She Wrote (1526671).

CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST As Yorkshire except: 1.20pm North East News (80458809). 5.05 North East News (9944809). 5.10 - 5.25pm Full Time (2801625).

As C4 except: 10.00am The Avengers (73828). 11.00 Channel 4 Athletics (53064). 12.00 Mision Impossible (29422). 5.05 Brookside (9902977). son impossure (19942), 3.05 bitures (199427), 6.30 The Living Sea (422), 7.00 Newyddion a Chwarzeon (342) 70, 7.15 Eisteddfod Genedaethol Cymru Meirion a'r Cyffiniau (77333967), 12.15 Homicide. Life on the Street (235949), 1.15 Dirty Weekend: Backstage at the Phoenix (31381), 1.45
Just for Laughts (8335300), 2.25 The New Twilight Zone (6564768). 2.50 - 3.15 Pearl (1225720). 5.15 - 5.35am Partners (4298316).

£)

Radio

Radio 2

Radio 1 876-99.88% RA 6.00am Clive Warren 9.30 Mark Goodier 12.30 Lisa l'Anson 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Ibiza Dance Weekender: Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Ibiza Dance Weekender: Essential Mix 4.00-6.00am Dave Clarke

1932-96 7MHz FM) 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 A Swift Laugh 1.30 The Jasper Carrott Trial 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alan Freeman 5.30 Nanci Griffith in Concert 6.30 The Elvis Presley Story 7.30 Sweet Charity 10.00 Brecon Jazz Festival 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Charles

Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3 902924Mt PM

6.55am Weather; News Headlines. 7.00 The BBC Orchestras. (R) 9.00 Proms News. 9,30 Other Times, Other Places. 12.00 Sound Choice.

1.00 News; The Christies of Glyndebourne. An eight-part series in which Sir George Christie traces the history of Glyndebourne Fes-tival in conversation with James Naughte, With excerpts from Mozart's Idomeneo, Busoni's Ar-lecchino and Rossini's Barber of

3.00 Youth Orchestras of the World. The fourth in an eight-part series showcasing the world's best young orchestras features the Juillard Orchestra from New York's Juillia School, Ravel: La valse, Bruch: Scottish Fantasy, Gershwin, arr Bennett: Porgy and Bess - A Symphonic Picture. Vaughan 5.00 Jazz Record Requests.
5.45 Proms Feature: Cherish, Conserve, Consider, Create. Under the motto of the title, Lou Harrimonto of the title, Lou Harrimond this year, has written

son, 80 this year, has written music in a bewildering variety of styles. Michael Oliver talks to m and to friends, critics and 6.30 From St John's. (R) 7.30 BBC Proms 97. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London. Na tional Youth Orchestra/Cofin Davis. Tippett: Ritual Dances (The Midsummer Marriage). inghan Williams: Symphony

8.35 The National Youth Orchestra 8.55 Concert, part 2. Sibelius: Symphony No 1.

Choice



with Who Am I To You? (2.30pm R4), an adaptation of a hit Hindi film, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, with Saced Jaffrey (left). Your radio goes to Bollywood in tonight's Kaleidoscope (7.20pm R4), which finds Sanjeev Bhaskar of India's film industry.

10.00 Books Abroad 10.30 Michael Tippett. Tippett's song-cycle The Heart's Assuracce, written to words from the Second World War poets Alun Lewis and Sidney Keyes, in a BBC archive recording by Peter Pears (tench) and Noel Mewton-Wood (jeano).

10.55 Barbara Thompson, Geof-trey Smith introduces a concert

given in 1995 by this composer and saxophonist. In the first half, she is joined by the Medici Quartet to play arrangements Kurt Weill pieces, and in the second half, a performance of Love Songs in Age, a BBC com-mission based on poems by Philip Larkin. (R) 1.00-7.00am Through the Night.

82494.6Mbz FM, 198Mbz LM 6.00 Farming Today.
6.50 Prayer for the Day.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today. 8 58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4 10.00 News; People Like Us. 10.30 Kit and the Widow's Grand

11.00 News; State of the Arts. 11.30 The Shadow of the Barryan. 12.00 Inside Money. 12.25 Just a Minute. 12.55 Weather. 1 00 News. 1.10 No End of a Boom.

1.55 Snipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Book of the Year. Peggy Reynolds looks back at a year in publishing history to discover the classics which have survived. and the best sellers of the day which have disappeared from our bookshelves. 1925: Christo our poorsneves. 1923: Offiser-pher Blesby and Hermione Lee talk about the year which saw the publication of two great.

Bollywood comes to your radio

in Bombay, looking at the state

American novels, The Great Gatsby and Willa Cather's The Professor's House 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Who Am I to You? Adapted for radio by to You? Adapted for read by Rehen Shelikh and John Fletcher from the biggest Bollywood film hit of 1995, Hum Aapke Hain Koun. After two brothers fall in love with two sisters, one of the isters dies and the other is betrothed to the wrong brother. See Choice, above 4.00 News; The Shadow of the

A 30 Science Now 5.00 Prison Britain.
5.40 Continent Addit - Letter from the Subcontinent. A two-part series of specially commissioned letters to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the partition of in-dia. Former Prime Minister of dstan Benazir Bhutto reflects on changes that have taken lace in her homeland. 5.50 Shipping Forecast.

5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Mammon. 6.50 Sensational Women. (R) 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Writer 20 Kaleidoscope realine. While and performer Sanjeev Bhaskar travels to Bombay to find out how the world's biggest film in-dustry is dealing with the explo-sion of satellite TV and the tive spectres of the mob, Uncle Sam and T-Rex in Indle's golden arenhersary year. See Choice, above. 7.50 On These Days. 8.50 Accused of Murder. The sec ond of two Victorian murder mysteries. The Alabama Belle

by Pleter Rogers_(R) 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Late Night Theatre: Gift from the North. By David Pownall, with Barry Foster as

Greg. 1896: When a Lancashire nan catches a sture he is told it is the property of Queen Victoria. But how can he get the huge fish to the ageing and indifferent – monarch? 11.15 Quintessentially Flum-

11.30 Stanza. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: Still Waters By Robert Harbinson. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5 50 inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast

Radio 4 LW (2.44 GMz Ri; 1984z LW)
11.00am-1.00pm Test Match Special. Coverage of the third day's play in the Fifth Test at Trent

Bridge. 1,10-7,00pm Test Match Special. Radio 5

(83, 90%) LMN (8

6.00am Morning Reports Classic FM (100-101.9M/k FMC 6.00am Jane Markham 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Masters of Countdown 12.00 Masters or Their Art 1.00 Alan Menn 3.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Gardening Forum 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Clas-sic Quiz 12.00 Sally Peterson 2.00 Evening Concert 4.00-6.00am Sally Peterson

Virgin Radio 10215, 1197-1260kk NW 105.89kk R0 6.00am Lynn Parsons 9.00 Nicky Horne 12.00 Jeremy Clark 3.00 The Album Chart 6.00 Richard Porter 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce World Service

(198Hz W)
1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter
from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Encyclopa dia Historica 3.00 Newsday 3.31 Music Raview 4.00 World News 4.05 Warld Business During 4.05 World Business Review 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Global

To 6.30am.

7.00am My Little Pony (34593). 7.30 Street Sharks (22118). 8.00 Press Your Luck (32422). 8.30 Love Press 1007 LLXX (32422).
Connection (31793), 9.00 Quantum
Leap (36996), 10.00 Kung Fu
(11002), 11.00 Legends of the Hidden City (95915), 11.30 Sea Rescue
(96644), 12.00 World Wrestling Fed-(96644), 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (81286), 1.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun Challenge (67606), 2.00 Star Trek (64606), 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (90460), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (86267), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (6731), 6.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (70170), 7.00 Hercules: The Lagendary Journeys cules: The Lagendary Journeys (20199). 8.00 Coppers (3880). 8.30 Cops I (2915). 9.00 Cops II (75151). 9.30 LAPD (82915). 10.00 Law and Order (12170). 11.00 LA Law (12731). 12.00 The Mo (76836). 12.30 LAPD (33687). 1.00 Dream On (19213). 1.30 Saturday Night, Sunday Morning (21590). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (2166132).

SRF 2 7.00pm Superboy (9064147). 7.30 Superboy (5274064). 8.00 Kung Fu (8684335). 9.00 Pacific Drive (8684335). 9.00 Pacific Drive (8687422). 11.00 In the Heat of the Night (8635625), 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (8537958).

MONTE CHANGE 6.30am Little Orbit the Astrodog (8038737), 7.45 Prince of Foxes⁴ (83112557), 9.35 Abbott and (83112557). 9.35 Aboott and Costello Meet the Murmmy*
(7190441). 10.55 Sheke, Rattie and Rock (1047335). 12.20 This is My Affair* (669880). 2.00 Young Indiana Jones and the Attack of the Hawkorten (15444). 4.00 Karate Kid II (6977). 6.00 Apollo 11 (21828). 8.00 Rob Roy (98183538). 10.20 Candyman. Farewell to the Flesh Candyman: Farewell to the Flesh (498286). 12.00 Hostile Intentions (23519), 1.30 Threesome (756671), 3.05 Rage (934958), 4.45-6.05am Abbott and Costello Meet the Murnmy* (4157300).

6.00am When Time Ran Out 6.00am When Time Ran Out (50712), 8.00 The Long Summer of George Adams (88286), 10.00 Prince for a Day (37346606), 11.40 D2: The Mighty Ducks (46913828), 1.30 Memories of Me (29741002), 3.15 Seasons of the Heart (30599335), 5.00 When Time Ran (30441372), 7.00 D2: The Mighty Indiana (19741002), 1.30 D2: The Mighty Indiana (19 Out (41170), 7.00 D2: The Mighty Ducks (18915), 9.00 When Saturday Comes (27002), 11.00 Red Shoe Diaries No 12; Girl on a Bike (731557). 12.20 Circumstances Unknown (979229). 1.55 Bandolero! (584381). 3.45-6.00am The Man Next Door (25078861).

Satellite/cable CACO SERVON VAS 6.00pm Baby Boom (9205267). 8.00 Wall Street (9200712). 10.00 Compromising Positions (2162793). 11.45 A Soldier's Story (2003286). 1.35 Murder Most Foul* (41360229), 3.05 Monterey Pop (42396279). 4.25-5.30am Horse Feathers* (78917869).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00am Hold the Back Page (68034). 8.00 Aerobics (46248). 8.30 Racing (78847), 9.00 Rugby (70441), 10.30 Super League (57809). 12.00 Sports Saturday (21915). 2.00 Rugby: New Zealand South Africa (51489). 3.30 Results (39712). 5.30 Bobby Chartton's Foot-(572118). 10.00 Cricket - Fifth Test (37915). 12.00 Rugby (72855). 1.30 US PGA Golf (47923). 3.30-

7.00am Sports Centre (5795977). 8.00 Soccer AM (9190151). 12.00 Iron Man (7925977). 1.00 Golf (5328915), 4.00 Australian Rule Football (4686460), 6.00 Rugby League (3562880). 7.30 Golf: Czech Open (6547286), 9.00 Golf: Walker Cup (5297151), 11.00-1.00am Golf: Buick Open (8353002).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00moon Fishomania IV (44486793). 5.30 World Sport (68026151). 6.00 The Winning Post (38905002). 8.30-12.00 midnight Fishomania IV (46421199).

LTE: IV 6.00am Fashion 6.30 Agony 7.00 Looking for Love 7.15 Pet Squad 7.30 Game of Two Scarves 8.00 Agony 8.30 Looking for Love 8.45 Pet Squad 9.00 Revelations 9.30 Fashion 10.00 A Game of Two Scarves 10.30 Looking for Love Scarves 10.30 Looking for Love 10.45 Pet Squad 11.00 Agony 11.30 Fate and Fortune 12.00 Why Files? 12.30 Reveletions 1.00 Looking for Love 1.15 Pet Squad 1.30 Agony 2.30 Canary Wharf 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Looking for Love 3.45 Pet Squad 4.00 Fashlon 4.30 Game of Two Scarves 5.00 Agony 5.30 Levi's Seventies Pop Show 6.00 Fashlon 6.30 Sport 7.00 Game of Two Scarves 7.30 Agony 8.00 Who Dares Wirs 8.30 Fate and Fortune 9.00 Why Files? 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Top-Why Files? 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Topvvry riles? 9.30 rashon 10.00 lop-less Darts; Sport 10.30 Game of Two Scarves 11.00 Topless Darts; Sex 11.30 Exotica Erutica 12.30 Plea-suredome 1.00 Private Dancer 1.30 Sex 2.00 Exolica Erotica 3.00 Private Dancer 3.30 Sex 4.00 Exotica Erotica 4,30 Exotica Erotica 5.00 Sport 5.30-6.00am Home Shopping

DIAMONDS MAY BE FOREVER...



ARTHRITIS NEEDN'T BÉ

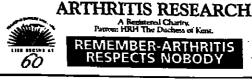
There are many forms of arthritic and rheumatic disease which affect men, women and children in Britain today. causing unrelenting pain and disability in hands, wrists and joints throughout the body.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1996 and is the only major UK charity financing medical research into osteoarthritis and rheumatic diseases at most university hospitals and medical schools in the UK.

There is real hope that with continued research these destructive diseases can be beaten. With your help we can continue the battle to find a cure.

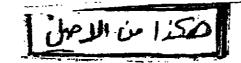
Please send me: Your FREE Information Pack Your FREE Legacy/How to Make a Will Pack l enclose: 🔲 £31 🔲 £47 🔲 £19 may gift of £

> To: The Arthritis & Rheumatism Council. FREEPOST, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7BR.



REMEMBER-ARTHRITIS RESPECTS NOBODY

A Registeral Charity, Patron: HRH The Duches of Kent.



*school's out

'Gordon's rate of interest has never flagged, rising steadily throughout the term'



david aaronovitch

he Prime Minister is to issue an annual report, commenting on the progress of his government. An early draft was lying on the desk of a minister I went to see recently, and I managed to read it upside down. In the interest of open government, I reproduce it

"To all parents and stakeholders: Hi! It's been a fantastically busy first term of the new parliament. On the whole, the Government has done extremely well, adjusting to the new offices very quickly and with the minimum of disruption. Our review groups are now looking at virtually every aspect of administration and policy, and will be reporting well before the end of the century. Which is not - if I may remind you - very far

In the meantime, these are my interim reports on your inisters. I hope that you find them instructive and useful.

John: Has had - for him a quiet term. He has, I think, begun to realise that his occasional over-enthusiasm has led to his taking on too many different things at once. The transport project, especially the Birmingham ring-road, has not quite been the success that he hoped for, and has led to John failing to grip the Nature Studies part of the course. Effort: A minus; Achievement: C minus.

Jack: Has set about his task with his usual grim determination, so I ve actually seen very little of him! Seems to be achieving a nice balance between liberalism and firmness, but I do wonder where he's keeping all those prisoners! Effort: B plus; Achievement:

B double plus. Gordon: Beneath that gloomy exterior there is a very clever chap indeed! His innovative work on the Bank of England has been the talk of the Government, and his rate of interest has never flagged, rising steadily throughout the term. I hope he doesn't find the rest of the work too taxing. Effort: A;

Achievement: A minus. Clare: An excellent start! Last term's distressing tendency towards indiscipline has been almost completely eradicated, leaving her free to concentrate on what she loves

best, travelling and sympathising. I thought I'd never be able to say this, but she is an asset to the government! Effort: B;

Achievement: C plus. Robin: Difficulties at home have not prevented him from making his mark. His landmark essay "Morality in Foreign Policy" was the talk of the Christian Society, attracting a great deal of favourable comment. Now let's see how he puts it into practice! His forthcoming trip to Indonesia should prove

stimulating. Effort: A minus; Achievement: B double plus. Prefects: Peter tells me that morale is good, and that almost everybody is pulling their weight. The plan to send work teams into the vegetable garden to occupy them during slack periods is now close to fruition. Also the work on the Dome is well under way, and, under Peter's inspired leadership, should provide us all with a memorable evening on 31 December 1999.

Matron's Report: Although there are signs of improvement in attendance and punctuality, Miss Harman is concerned that there are still too many who stop work at the smallest sign of illness, or who still refuse to take on tasks that they consider beneath them. A new system of encouraging less hardworking girls and boys to pull their fingers out is about to be introduced.

Trips: It is important that ministers get out and ехрепенсе ще и оше countries. I myself have accompanied several such delegations, and although all have been hard work (especially the weekend in Amsterdam) nevertheless a good time was had by all.

Sports: Mr Banks tells me that the First XI has enjoyed mixed fortunes against the Australian boys with a splendid win followed by a couple of disappointing results. Sports day last week was also something of a letdown, with too many of our athletes performing below par. Let us hope that the soccer team will enjoy better fortune next year on their world tour!

All in all, a terrific term and a year of achievement in prospect. I hope you share my

How Mary's monster became today's myth

حكذا من الاحل

by Sara Maitland

his month marks the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Mary Shelley, the author of Erankenstein, a novel that has proved astonishingly influential and effective, having all the qual-

ities of a genuine myth.

Mary Shelley was the daughter of Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin. Mary Wollstonecraft is now best known as the writer of A Vindication of the Rights of Women and the founder of modern teminism, but in her own day she was as notorious for her support of the French Revolution and her unconventional lifestyle. Godwin was a leading rationalist, a significant political philosopher, and a libertarian Jacobin. Much was expected of their child: particularly as Wollstonecraft died in child-

At 16 Mary fell in love with the young Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, a disci-ple of her father's who had been expelled from Oxford for writing The Necessity of Atheism and, although he was married with two children, ran off with him: at which point her father rejected her entirely despite his previous advocacy of Free Love.

The young couple lived an itinerant life over the next two years, during which Mary suffered a miscarriage and the death of her premature daughter. The couple were clearly very close but Shelley, who was both intellectually brilliant and emotional volatile, was demanding to live with. The summer of 1816 found them living near Geneva with Lord Byron (by whom Mary's halfsister was pregnant) and their surviving child. Byron and Shelley had formed a friendship of extraordinary intensity, which always contained a strong element of competition.

In this highly charge atmosphere Mary Shelley conceived and wrote *trankenslein*: macabre Gothic tale of a brilliant and talented young man who starts out with a proper desire for learning and knowledge, but gets too ambitious. He withdraws from the world and normal human contact into his laboratory and pulls off the greatest victory of all scientific imagination - he constructs a body out of bits of dead flesh, and galvanises it. Far from this turning out to be an exciting and hopeful breakthrough for humanity, the consequences are horrendous.

Frankenstein's creation is horribly botched; unlike nature's creation, it is neither beautiful nor lovable. It is destructive, vengeful, and very dangerous. (Interestingly, the piece of the story that is least prominent in all the retellings is Mary Shelley's central ques-tion – is the monster evil



because it is unloved, or unlovable because it is evil?) The monster brutally destroys everything its creator loves friends, and family, and sanity. Finally, Frankenstein has to sacrifice his life to destroy his own creation. Nothing good comes of this supremely

reference way beyond the cinematic.) It is unusual for any pervasive cultural myth to have a known and named author. It is even more unusual for such an author to be a teenage girl.
Why did it work so well?

What nerve is it that Frankenstein touched and still touches? ity? Is cloning a new chance at eternal life, or a fundamental corruption of our individuality? Reproductive technologies continually stir up moral terrors and media controversies - on the one hand it is "natural" (even a right) to have children; on the other

mous power, they are required to sacrifice certain sorts of normality, whether simple practical skills (professors are absent-minded" just as saints often were) or more profound satisfactions (like normal human relationships). But these sacrifices make them hand we should not go to

Dr Frankenstein carries great psychological conviction, which is far more important than factual credibility. He is a true tragic hero, noble but flawed. He represents many of our deeper beliefs about what scientists are like; in fact he forms these beliefs. But more importantly, Mary Shelley created a powerful narrative: myths are not just symbols or metaphors or abstract theories; they are always stories. Stories that put in order what

we want to think. One of the problems with myths is that you never know

From the moment of publication it struck a chord. Dr Frankenstein represents many of our deeper beliefs about scientists - in fact he forms these beliefs

Although it is written with an enormous emotional power, Frankenstein was not the first Gothic horror novel, and it was not the first science fiction novel either, but from the moment of its first publication in 1818 it struck a chord, whose reverberations seem to increase still. It is unusual for a novel so to escape from its origins. Almost every eight-year-old in this country now knows the name and something of the story -however botched, confused and reinterpreted - of the hero of a radical, literary. intellectual novel written over 150 years ago. (Although Boris Karloff may have something to answer for, the fame of this story is not based simply on a film version. The name "Frankenstein" has a cultural

The French Revolution destabilised Europe. It raised hopes that reason could perfect humanity and then dashed those hopes. It also led directly to the devastating Napoleonic Wars - which ended only the year before Frankenstein was written. And it left Europe with a profound tension between the liberating, life-enhancing capacities of human knowledge and the dangers (moral, practical and imaginative) of "interfering with

It is a conflict which has not been resolved in the subsequent two centuries and is seen most clearly in the life sciences, particularly medicine: will reducing pain in childbirth undermine maternal devotion? Will organ transplants change personal"unnatural" lengths to get Robots, cyborgs and clones (artificial people) are the "baddies" of popular science

fiction - from the film Bladerunner (where it is taken as a given that it is essential to work out who is a "real" human and who is not, even though it is well nigh impossible to discover any difference whatsoever) right down to the crassest children's TV cartoon, in which human heroes can take on the characteristics of robots, while the villains are technological constructions which take on the appearance

of humanity.

Because of such fears, scientists have become what priests and wizards were -they are different from "us". In exchange for their enor-

are also under the suspicion of being more on the side of their inventions than they are on the side of the common man. (Hence the present popular belief that "science is too important to be left to scientists" - they cannot have normal human ethics).

These are precisely the issues that Frankenstein addresses. The character of than done.

they are myths until you don't need them any longer. *Frankenstein* is a story. Mary Shelley made it up. She despised convention, and conventional thinking. Perhaps we should celebrate this bicentenary by recognising how useful her novel has been, by accepting we have made a mythology out of it, and by treating it as we do earlier myths - by demythologising it, and setting ourselves free from some of our fears. Easier said

AONDS MAY FOREVER.

Tony Blair, the first African PM

Orry, but when we're down to "Mandelson manipu-lates the press" and "Labour proclaims achieve-ments of its first 100 days by promising an annual report" you know that domestic politics is on helicary Thurs to the autor is on holiday. Turn to the entertainment pages, and we discover the Princess of Wales, as usual Mr Dodi Fayed may not know it yet, but he has been selected to be the latest candidate for a media death-by-Diana, the fate that inevitably meets anyone standing too close to the Princess. The irony of her campaign to ban landmines is that she is herself a sort of social hand grenade, ready to explode, leaving unsuspecting playboys legless and broken.

However, there are still events happening around the world. I'm sure that Mr Blair is watching with a keen eye from his Tuscan holiday home. because the team is always on the lookout for models of government to enhance his mis-

sion, aka The Project. We know from the welfareto-work programme that Australia and New Zealand have been under scrutiny, as has the United States, if only because Friend Bill has made so many avoidable mistakes. At one point I feared that The Project was going to be the creation of a proto-Canada - Dullsville on Sunday. But I think that I have finally worked out where The



Trevor Phillips

The phrases could just as easily be drawn from speeches by Nyerere, Kenyatta or Mugabe as from the New Labour lexicon

Project is actually heading. whites to key posts in his gov-Tony is an African, though in erument, and set up the Truth the political sense, rather than the biological. If he has a modern political hero, it is Nelson Mandela; if he has a spectre at his feast, it is Mobutu Sese Seko

decades of corrupt, partisan government, pledging to destroy political tribalism. Their troops have marched for many years, often with little hope of victory and in the face of doubt from the people and hostility from the organs of civil society (yes, The Sun qualifies). At last, at last there is a breakthrough, and a sense of liberation across the nation. It seems that everyone has been waiting for this moment, and even those who appeared to be in cahoots with the ancien régime now cheer along with

The rhetoric is characteristic "heal the wounds", "end privilege", "unify the people". The phrases could just as easily be drawn from speeches by Nyerere, Kenyatta, Mugabe, Nkrumah as from the New Labour lexicon. The new leaders are men and women of iron discipline. They take hold of the reins of power vowing that the old days should never

Commission to absolve his former persecutors; Mr Blair has recruited businessmen, and given house room to the Social Democrats who helped to pitch his party out of power for a generation. They inject a new style
- Mr Mandela blinds us with his Look at the facts. Labour has come to power after shirts, Mr Blair charms us with his informality. And they set about creating what they call a new politics that will put an end to division. It is when we hit the politics that we run into difficult

In Africa, as in Britain, the historic political obstacle to modernisation is tribalism. In South Africa, that includes the white tribe; here we may call them classes, but we all know which we belong to, and we know which party is supposed to represent our interests. Like most African leaders, the Blair team has clearly decided that the party political framework, when combined with these archaic loyalties, could derail The Project. Thus virtually every move they make has to undermine that framework, in spite of the fact that it has given them a

huge, overwhelming mandate. There, Mr Mandela brings minority parties into the cabinet; here, the Liberal Democrats join a cabinet committee. be allowed to return.

There they purge the party of undesirables like Mrs Mandela appointed

There they purge the party of undesirables like Mrs Mandela appointed

There they purge the party of undesirables like Mrs Mandela appointed

There they purge the party of undesirables like Mrs Mandela appointed dela; here they neutralise the only one thing can prevent the a year in the bush.

There they decentralise power massively, creating regional assemblies and provincial prime ministers; here we get devolution and a new style of government for London. There sation - by which is usually they turn up at football matches meant, no basis for anyone else they turn up at football matches and concerts - remember Mr Mandela at the World Cup Rugby Finals in a Springbok shirt? Here, though Mr Banks at Chelsea is not that remarkable, since he's been going for umpteen years, Mr Fisher, the Arts minister, goes to Glaston-

bury - truly amazing.
All this is fine. Where we may become a little nervous is the bit that follows - an attempt to defeat tribalism by embracing every strand of opinion within the governing party. This need not be a one-party state, but it could be as near as dammit. In Africa, they tend to acknowledge that there is only one party of government and then introduce long and cumbersome methods of establishing consensus, which eventually give a result, usually too late and too complex to be of much use. The South African model is rather like this, and in the spate of reviews and commissions and focus groups set up by New Labour one can see this

tendency emerging. Unfortunately, in Africa,

ing, and that is to stick together the main party political inter-ests, find a place for everyone in government and ensure that there is no basis for destabilito take over the government.
Some versions of this ten-

dency invent vigorous federal structures to ensure that the national government does not simply do as it likes - its powers are limited and its actions are scrutinised. An example of this would be the old Tanzanian ruler, Julius Nyerere, who got his way by charm, cunning and sheer intellectual force. Some countries forget to install any checks on the power of central government and are ready to use its power to deliver what it believes is good for the people, whether they like it or not, check out Mobutu.

Of course we hope that Mr Blair's version will be Mandela rather than Mobutu. For a straw in the wind, look towards Mr Nyerere's Tanzania. The old man originated the Blairish phrase "the Third Way" ibetween communism and capitalism), gave us an African ver-sion of what New Labour is currently calling "inclusion," and insisted that he did not have to follow anyone else's doctrines.

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Professor J. D. Pearson

J. D. Pearson was the most in-fluential librarian in Oriental and African studies ever known in Britain. When he was appointed to the library of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies in 1950, the library had 17 staff members and a stock of 100,000 volumes; when he gave up the librarianship 22 years later the staff stood at 40, the stock at some 500,000 items, and it was the most important library of its kind in Europe. James Douglas Pearson was

born in 1911 and educated at Cambridge County High School for Boys. He left school at the age of 16 with, as he himself termed it, "undistinguished attainments" and secured a post as a book-fetcher, or "library boy" in the Cambridge University Library. Inspired by the example of the librarian, A.F. Schofield.

he developed a passion for languages that became a byword among his contemporaries in the library. "A scholarship was then found for me at St John's College," he recalled, "and there, and later at Pembroke ter its wartime dispersal, and were supervised by Pearson College... I was able to indulge was housed in numerous dif-

an addiction to Oriental languages for six years." The scholarship was for Hebrew and his studies lasted from 1932 to 1936, when he returned to the University Library as an Assistant in the Oriental

Called up for military service in 1941 as a signaller, he was later transferred to the Field Security section of the Intelligence Corps and served in Germany at the end of the war. Demobilised from the Army on the last day of 1945 he re-turned to Cambridge University Library as an Assistant nder-Librarian.

His first marriage was dissolved and he later married Hilda Wilkinson, who was to assist fully with his bibliographical work. The demands of a growing family (he had four sons) meant that, when in 1950 he was offered the post of Librarian at the School of Oriental and African Studies, he accepted even though it meant

At SOAS the library was only just being re-assembled af-

ferent stores throughout various buildings; the staff was small, and the book-buying budget tiny. Pearson applied himself with energy to promoting the library's cause in the councils of SOAS and to securing increased staff and money to buy books. Academics going on study leave in Africa or Asia were supplied with lists of wanted titles and money to make local purchases. Gradually, in spite of accommodation problems, the library became better equipped to serve the teaching

and research needs of the

Major expansion came with

the appointment of a new Director, Sir Cyril Philips, in 1957. Philips appreciated the need for a strong library to underpin the special studies undertaken by SOAS, and encouraged Pearson to expand the library and its staff. He secured a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to support SOAS and among the projects was a series of country-wide surveys of manuscripts relating to Asia and Africa. These surveys

Wainwright and Noel Mathews and published by Oxford University Press.

Meanwhile Pearson had already begun his work on Oriental manuscripts with Oriental Manuscript Collections in the Libraries of Great Britain and Ire-land (1954), followed later by Oriental Manuscripts in Europe and North America: a survey (1971). But his principal work, Index-Islamicus. 1906-1955 (1958), is a catalogue of periodical articles on Islamic subjects, continued in succeeding cumulations and quarterly is-sues, and regularly cited as 'Pearson".

He was responsible for initiating the first listings of higher degrees in African and Asian studies and securing their publication; he chaired the first International Conference on African Bibliography in Nairo-bi in 1967 and edited the proceedings (1970) with Ruth Jones; he published A Bibliography of Pre-Islamic Persia (1975); revised and annotated the Asian and African entries from Besterman's A World Bibliography of Bibliographies (1975); edited South Asian Bib-

demonstrated by her work on

stage in both the classics and

contemporary drama, but most

of this was done in provincial

theatres, partly no doubt be-

cause early in her career she

offended "Binkie Beaumont",

the West End's leading

She was born Isabel Hodg-kinson in Aldridge, Stafford-

shire, in 1918. Her first

ambition was to be an art

teacher. She studied painting at

the Birmingham Art School

and in 1937 joined the Cheltenham Repertory Company

as a scenic artist. Soon she was

taking both acting lessons and

small parts with the company.

"It was inevitable, with her rav-

ishing looks," commented one

After appearing with reper-

gie Buckley in an adaptation of

at End House, following this

of the company later.

theatrical manager.

liography: a handbook (1979); and after retirement produced a supplementary volume (1984) to Creswell's bibliography of Is-lamic art and architecture, and continued to revise the Wainwright and Mathews surveys, working on them in the University Library up to a few weeks before his death. (The supplementary volumes for South and South East Asia and Africa appeared in 1989-90 and

From 1959 Pearson taught a course in Oriental and African bibliography for student librarians in the School of Li-brarianship and Archive Studies at University College London and many of his students subsequently rose to important posts in Asia and Africa, while his lectures and seminars led to Oriental and Asian Bibliography: an introduction with some reference to Africa (1966), the first textbook of its kind published.

Pearson played a full part in the affairs of SOAS, serving on numerous committees and the Academic Board, but outside SOAS he was a founder of the Standing Committee

for Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA) and subsequently its Chairman, and he was also Chairman of the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL) Group of Orientalist Librarians. He was instrumental in founding other regional groups of librarians and promoting co-operation between them both nationally and world-wide.

He was the founding Chairman of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians. and attended most of the International Congresses of Ori-entalists until his retirement, he was Library Adviser to the Inter-University Council from 1969 to 1975, and provided much of the material for the chapter on libraries in the influential Hayter report on the development of Oriental and African studies in the UK.

Pearson gave up the librari-anship of SOAS in March 1972 just as the library was about to move into its new and long-expected building, designed by Denys Lasdon & Partners. He was first appointed Senior Research Fellow,

Isabel Dean

then to the first Chair in Bibliography with reference to Asia and Africa" at London University. He retired from the Chair in September 1979 and moved back to Cambridge. He was appointed Professor Emeritus, made an Honorary Fellow of the Library Association in 1976 and awarded the Walford Prize for lifelong achievement in bibliography in

Jim Pearson's warmth and cheerfulness made dry meetings go with a swing, and his inde-farigable energy and willingness to persevere with seemingly thankless tasks produced bibliographical works of enduring value. When SOAS library closed for Christmas each year. the party that began in the Librarian's room just before closing became an annual institutional event.

As Librarian of SOAS he was one of the great travellers, when it was unusual for librarians to move outside their libraries. All his life he retained a love of Cambridge and a keen interest in flora and natural



Pearson: regularly cited

James Douglas Pearson, librarian and bibliographer, born 17 De-cember 1911; Assistant Under-Librarian, Cambridge University Li-brary 1939-50; Librarian, School of Oriental and April 1950-72. Per London University 1950-72. Pro-fessor of Bibliography; with refer-ence to Asia and Africa 1972-79 (Emeritus); married first Rose Betty Burden (one son: morriage dissolved), second Hilda Willanson (three sons); died I August 1997.



Dean: 'Our stage is rich in actresses - the most undervalued is (sabel Dean'

tory companies in Brighton and Norwich, she made her London

In a career spanning 50 years, Isabel Dean demonstrated talwith a Shakespearean role, Mariana in Robert Atkins's Regent's Park production of All's Well That Ends Well. A major ent and versatility while never fulfilling the great promise initially indicated. With large eyes break came in 1943 when she played Jenny in John Gielgud's celebrated production of Conand classically chiselled features, she became best known greve's Love for Love at the Phoenix. as an exponent of somewhat steely patrician ladies of elegance and breeding. That she was capable of much more was

The following year she was asked to join Gielgud's repertory company at the Haymarket, again playing Prue in Love for Love, but also understudying Peggy Ashcroft as Ophelia to Gielgud's Hamlet (the last time the great actor played the role). She played Ophelia several times when Ashcroft was sick and followed this with a performance as Hermia in A Midsummer Night's Dream which, according to Harold Hobson, was "as pretty and sharply defined as it was lovely".

When Beaumont asked her to go with Gielgud's company to tour India, but only to play the role of the maid in Coward's Blithe Spirit and again to understudy Ophelia, she refused and Beaumont made it clear be considered her ungrateful. She never worked for his management again and made few more West End appearances. Instead she played leading roles in Ox-Theatre, including a luminous

Agatha Christie's thriller Peril Juliet. She returned to the West End linked by a gossip columnist National Theatre.

in 1956 to play Mary Dallas in the thriller The Night of the Fourth at the Westminster, and three years later played Miss Frost, the Catholic lodger seduced by a young student, in the hit production of J.P. Donleavy's The Ginger Man at the

She had meanwhile become a familiar face on television. She had the principal female role in Nigel Kneale's enormously popular blend of science-fiction and horror The Quatermass Experiment (1953), six 30-minute episodes which went out live, with filmed inserts. Dean played the scientist whose astronaut husband returns from a mission with an alien infection that causes him to mutate into a

vegetable-like creature. When A Life of Bliss, a successful radio comedy series, was transferred to television with its original star, George Cole, as the bumbling bachelor hero, Dean was cast as his

forthright sister Anne. Other television roles included Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, David Mercer's The Parachute (as mother to John Osborne), Julian Bond's 13part series A Man of Our Times and a high-toned soap-opera. ry apartment block where the stories of the inhabitants are

searching for stories. Created and written by Dean's husband. William Fairchild, it went out twice weekly, but lasted only nine weeks. (Dean's 1953 marriage to Fairchild, who wrote such screenplays as Morning Departure. The Malia Story and Star!, was dissolved in the early Seventies.)

In the theatre, she had successes in several contemporary plays, including the Royal Court production of John Osborne's A Hotel in Amsterdam (1968). which moved into the West End, and in provincial productions of Orton's What the Butler Saw and John Bowen's chilling Robin Redbreast. She had a particularly notable triumph as Hester in Rattigan's The Deep Blue Sea (at Guildford in 1971 and Nottingham in 1972), once more following in the footsteps of Peggy Ashcroft. Her wrenching por-trayal of the clergyman's daugh-

ter, married to a High Court judge, who leaves her husband to pursue a hopeless and obsessive affair with a young air force pilot, clearly demonstrated that Dean's gifts had not always been appropriately

exploited. In 1977 she played with Gielhad been his Ophelia, in Julian Mitchell's Half Life at the

Dean's film career hegan in 1943 with a tiny role in The Man in Grey. Later films included Lean's The Passionate Friends (1948), and Sidney Gillian's The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan (1953), in which she was the epitome of droll elegance as wife to Robert Morley's Gilbert. How does it feel to be married to a transcendent genius?" asks her husband as he puts the fin-ishing touches to The Mikado.

"I suppose I've always taken it for granted, dear," is her reply. In Alexander Mackendrick's A High Wind in Jamaica, she presented a beautiful and touching picture of Victories motherhood in the film's easy sequences. Her last appearance on the West End stage was as the tragic mother of Alan Turing (Derek Jacobi) in Hugh Whitemore's Breaking the Code

A few years earlier the crit-ic Harold Hobson had written: Our own stage is rich in actresses of whom the chief jewel is Peggy Ashcroft - and the most undervalued is Isabel

Tom Vallance

Isabel Hodgkinson (Isabel Dean), actress: born Aidridge, ried 1953 William Fairchild (two daughters; marriage dissolved): died 27 July 1997.

Harold Spina

The first of the composer Harold Spina's many hits was launched by a bandleader who couldn't decide whether it was a funny song or a tragic

The tongue-in-cheek "Annie Doesn't Live Here Any More" (1933), which Spina wrote with Joe Young, veteran lyricist of such standards as "My Mammy", "You're My Everything" and "I'm Gonga Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter", and the fledgling Johnny Burke, was considered a dud by its publishers, who sent it to the bandleader Guy Lombardo in

a parcel of tunes they regarded as equally hopeless. Although unsure whether the song would make people laugh or cry. Lombardo asked the publishers if he could have it exclusively for six weeks. They replied, "You can have it for six years!" In less than three weeks, the number became a nationwide hit.

Like Lombardo, America was divided about "Annie"; college students and big-city types found it funny, while those in the hinterlands thought it poignant; its ending ("She was oh-so faithful - what a pitiful

sight! / Waited for a letter that you promised to write. / A gentleman with a top hat called around the other night, / And Annie doesn't live here any more") led many to think Annie had died of a broken heart, and that the top-hatted gentleman was not a rich lover, but an undertaker.

Obsessed with music from an early age, Spina led his own high-school dance band at 14. Soon after graduation he became a pianist and vocal arranger for a music publishing firm in his native New York, turning full-time composer in

1932. After the success of "Annie Doesn't Live Here Any More", he and Johnny Burke turned out a dozen songs, including "It's Dark on Observatory Hill" (1934) and the Fats Waller hits "You're Not the Only Oyster in the Stew" (1934) "You're So Darn Charming" and "My Very Good Friend the

Milkman" (both 1935). The partnership ended in 1936, when Burke left for Hollywood to write for Bing Crosby. In 1937 Spina too went west; with Walter Bullock he wrote the score for United Artists' 52nd Street (1937), a te-

dious musical whose title invited invidious comparison with Warner Bros' 42nd Street (1933). After being signed by 20th Century-Fox, Spina and Bullock provided songs for the Sonja Henie-Don Ameche-Ethel Merman film Happy Landing, Alice Faye's Sally, Irene and Mary, and Shirley Temple's Just Around the Corner and Little Miss Broadway (all

Frank Loesser was his lyricist on Paramount's True to the Army (1942), which starred the hillbilly comedienne Judy Canova. Spina later worked on her

equally corny Honeychile (1951) and The Wac from Walla Walla (1952) with others providing the

In 1950 Dinah Shore had a hit single with Spina's "It's So Nice to Have a Man Around the House". Jack Elliott wrote the lyric, which ended with the cynical "Though it's two to one you'll wind up with a louse". Patti Page had a million-seller with Would I Love You?" (1951), which Spina wrote with Bob Russell. Soon afterwards, the composer became his own lyti-cist; his "Lazy Summer Night"

the Four Preps. He also provided both words and music for "The Velvet Glove" (1953), which his long-time friend Jerry Colonna recorded. "If Jerry hadn't been a friend," joked Spina, "I wouldn't have let him do that to my song!"

During his long life, Harold Spina also founded two music publishing firms and a film studio, produced and directed for record companies, developed the first automated music programme in radio, and campaigned tirelessly for his union, the American Society of Com-(1958) was a leading record for posers, Authors and Publishers. 18 July 1997.

Although his most enduring song was the Latin-American 'Cumana", (written with Barday Allen and Roscoe Hillman). his most remunerative composition was "Man Around the House", which was adapted for a long-running television cakemix commercial. It became "It's so nice to have a cake around the house".

Dick Vosburgh

Harold Spina, composer, lyricist, music publisher and record producer: born New York 21 June 1906; married (two sons); died

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

SMYTH: On 2 August, in Dorset, aged 56 years. Francis Brendan (Frank) Smyth, writer, raconteur, bon viveur, hugely loved, Funeral service at \$1 Joseph's RC Church, Highgate Hill on Wednesday 13 August at 12 noon followed by interment at Highgate Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to Leverton & Sons, 1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, N2 (0181-444 5753). WILDER: William S., Honorary Consul of Sao Tomé and Principe and
President of the Consular Corps of
London, passed away suddenly on o
August 1997. Much-loved husband
of trene and lather of Jeffrey and

Lotraine.
WILLIAMSON: Bessie, fortified by
the rites of Synagogne and Holy
Church, Cmberra, 13 June, aged 91.
Founder of the Australian Listening
Library for the Stind, Much-loved
widow of George; mother of Malcolm,
Marion and Diane: grandmother of
Peter-Jesus, Tamara, Clare and Rebecca (doceased): Nicola, Rohan and
Adrian: great-grandmother of Josef,
Robert and Michael, Jesu mercy.
Mary pray.

Ansouscements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or fixed to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard CHAINGING OF LINE UNDER House Artiflery mounts the Ousea's Like Guard at House Guards, (Tam.) Nigerogen Company Greendier Guards (Itam.) Nigerogen Company Greendier Guards mounts the Ousea's Guard, at Backlegham Palace. If Mann hand provided by the Webb Guards. TOMORROUS The King's Troop Royal Horse Artiflery mounts the Ousea's Like Guard at Bacra Guards. How

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. M. Arthur and Miss P. S. J. Moves The engagement is announced be-tween Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Arthur, and Jo-Jo, daughter of Mr Jim Moyes and Mrs Elizabeth

Mr B. C. E. Steadman and Ms L. T. Edwards

The engagement is announced between Ben, only son of Mr and Mrs Evan Steadman, of Cambridge, and Lorien, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Cook, of Hinckley,

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr David Astor, former Chairman, Council for the Protection of Rural England, 54; Mr Ernest Beaumont, former chairman, Bunzi 76; Sir Philip Beck, president, John Mowken, 63; Mr Mervyn Bourdillon, Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, 73; The Right Rev Colin Buchanan, former Bishop of Aston, 63; Professor Elizabeth Cutter, botanist, 68; Mr Tam Dalyell MP, 65; Baroness Denington, former teacher and journalist, 90; Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse, Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, 74: Miss Whitney Houston, singer, 34; Sir Alistair Hunter, chairman, British American Chamber of Commerce of London, 61; Sir Christophor Laidlaw, former chairman, Bridon, 75; Mr Rod Laver, tennis player, 59; Mrs Jackie Lawrence MP, 49; Sir Frank Layfield OC. 76; Mr Robert Malpas, chair-man, Cookson Group, 70; Mr James Naughtie, broadcaster, 40; Mr John Naughtie, proadcaster, 40; Mr John Simpson, foreign affairs editor, BBC, 53; Professor Revin Thompson, Principal of Dartington College of Aris, 45; Dr George Turner MP, 57; Dr David VanderLinde, Vice-

Chancellor, Bath University, 55; Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman, J. Roth-schild Assurance, 66; Lord Young of Dartington, Director, Institute of Community Studies, 82.

TOMORROW: John Alldis, conductor, 68; Dame Gillian Brown, for-mer diplomat, 74; Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 64; Sir Lawrence Byford, mangement consultant, 72; Mrs Leila agement constitant, 72 Mrs Leus Campbell, former Chairman, ILEA, 86; General Sir George Cooper, former Chief Royal Engineer, 72; Mr Eddie Fisher, singer, 69; Miss Rhon-da Fleming, actress, 74; Professor Alexander Goein, composer, 65; Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman, Lloyds Paralleton, Royal, 64; Professor Regulatory Board, 64; Professor Adrian Harris, clinical oncologist, 47; Mr Roy Keane, footballer, 26; Mr Leonard Lickorish, former Director-General, British Travel Association, 76; Mrs Barbara Mills QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, 57; Miss Kate O'Mara, actress, 58; Mr David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, 64; Lord Stewartby, former government minister, 62; Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, literary consultant, 78; Mr Richard Unsworth, novelist, 67; Mr Richard Wells, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire, 57; Ms Rosa Winterton MP, 39; Miss Jane Wyatt, actress, 86.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Izaak Walton, author of The Compleat Angler, 1593; John Dryden, poet, 1631; Thomas Telford, civil engineer, 1757; Léonide Fedorovich Massine, dancer and choreographer, 1896; Jean Piaget, child psychologist, 1896; Robert Aldrich, film director, 1918; Philip Arthur Larkin, poet, 1922. Deaths: Captain Frederick Marryat, novelist, 1848; Professor Graham Wallas, economist, 1932; Herman Hesse, poet and novelist, 1962; Joe Orton (John Kings-ley Orton), playwright, 1967; Dmitri Dmitryevich Shostakovich, composer, 1975. On this day: an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, 1945; Singapore became independent, 1965; the London production of the resented, 1972; Gerald Ford succeeded Richard Nixon as 38th US President, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of St Enygius, Saints Nathy and Felim, St Oswald of Northumbris and St Romanus.

TOMORROW: Births: Laurence Robert Binyon, poet and playwright, 1869; Herbert Clark Hoover, 31st US President, 1874. Deaths: Allan Ramrespect, 1874, Deaths: Alian Ramsay, portrait painter, 1784; Johann Michael Haydn, composer, 1806; Edward William Lane, translator of The Thousand and One Niglus, 1876. On this day: the Scots defeated the English at the Battle of Onterburn, 1899. 1388; the Mines Act prohibited women and young children from working under ground, 1842; the first Promenade Concert was given by (later Sir) Henry Wood at the Queen's Hall, London, 1895; the (later Royal") Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland was founded 1897; the Parliament Act was passed, reducing the power of the House of Lords, 1911; British Members of Par-liament voted to receive salaries for the first time (£400 p.a.), 1911. To-day is the Feast Day of St Laurence

Lectures TODAY

National Gallery: Richard Stemp, "Gory Stories (ii): Pollaicolo. The Maryrdom of Saint Sebastian", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Mar-(in Barnes, "Photography and Paris 1860-1900", 2.30pm, British Museum; Hilary Williams, "Canaletto Drawings in the British Museum", 1.15pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury.

"Self-taught Artists", 2,30pm.

Must justice come before reconciliation? Truth is not a word much used in politics today. It has a religious ring to it. It crops

up most in speeches by people like Vaclav Havel and others who have suffered repeated doses of official untruth. That is why to Western ears the notion of a "truth commission" sounds so alien. It is alien, too, to many of the people of South Africa. There in recent days leading figures among the families of the thousands murdered under apartheid are beginning to oppose applications for annesty by their relatives' killers and torturers. They are

demanding justice, not reconciliation.

Truth commissions are not a new idea. They have already been used in Latin America as a way of dealing with gross human rights violations after a civil conflict has ended. Such bodies are empowered to grant an amnesty to criminals who confess fully to their actions and can prove that they were politically motivated. Mercy and reconciliation being at the forefront of their philosophy, truth commissions have proved attractive to many church leaders; Archbishop Desmond Tutu chairs the South African commission.

But justice is a gospel imperative too. What happens when the two seem to clash? By allowing murderers and torturers to walk free, truth commissions raise fundamental questions about what is meant by justice. This has become of more than academic interest in Britain over the past two decades, when the word "justice" was increasingly narrowed to mean punishment of the criminal. The populist response to the James Bulger and Myra Hindley cases can give the impression that the severity of punishment should not be the prerogative of an independent crimfaith o reason

In South Africa the families of those murdered by apartheid have begun to challenge the notion of amnesty for the torturers. Ian Linden believes they are wrong to do so.

of the popular will. At its worst such populism is catching and results in a desire for "justice" becoming synonymous with a desire for vengeance.

But truth commissions are not institutions of a criminal justice system. Nor are they expressions of the popular will. Indeed the amnesty granted by truth com-missions to the perpetrators of serious crimes can be deeply hurtful to victims or victims' families. This is clearly the case in South Africa where this week, despite opposition from the dead man's family, an amnesty was granted to three members of a former South African police hit-squad, led by Dirk Coetzee, who confessed to the murder of the anti-apartheid lawyer

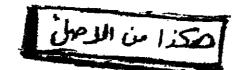
Griffiths Mxenge in 1981.
Yet the families of victims are not asked to forego all individual satisfaction in the interests of a broader public good of social reconciliation. Some satisfaction is intended to come from the proceedings. The full disclosure of the truth about what happened to loved ones makes it possible to

needed for a closure of mourning and grief. In the same way as the individual is re-stored to well-being, it is hoped that society is returned to health. People can begin to make their own histories again instead of being shackled by the past.

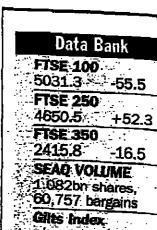
The idea of restorative justice is an ancient and hiblical one. An "eye for an eye" was not a vengeful prescription but a for-mula for avoiding two eyes for one, a continuing spiral of violence. Moreover the Jubilee theme of Leviticus holds up the ideal of freeing slaves, forgiving debts and redistributing land, as a cyclical restoration of God's just order.

From a Christian perspective, therefore, apartheid as a crime against humanity can-not simply be dealt with at the level of individual plaintiffs who have suffered crimes against the person. Land was stolen. Millions of forced removals took place into abject housing. Workers were exploited cruelly. Education was grossly discriminatory. What chance genuine reconciliation if such wrongs are not righted? The risk is that what is created is an ersatz form of reconciliation - and that church leaders merely give legitims-cy to a process which falls far short of the Christian ideal

Yet the radical nature of the Christian idea of reconciliation always confronts the realities of political and economic porter. The Truth and Reconciliation Conmission is achieving probably the best that can be achieved in the present South African political context without provoking a violent backlash from the white Right Britain should learn from South Africa's experience. It will have its own inal justice system but a direct reflection draw a line under the past; disclosure is comes to the north of Ireland. demons to exorcise when, and if, peace



market report/shares



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Sterling effort from second-liners as blue chips slump n/a

Shares spotlight stiere price, pence MID 250

The further slide in the pound induced a bout of schizophrenia among market-makers yesterday, with the heavyweight from SBC Warburg, HSBC stocks which have led this James Capel and Dresdner year's charge tumbling back and the second-liners taking up the running for a change. Banks and pharmaceuticals was the Scots which suffered the rest damage with Poyal were in the forefront of the ragged retreat from Thursday's all-time high, leaving the FTSE 100 index flirting with a collapse back through the 5,000 barrier.

It ended 55.5 points lowered.

It ended 55.5 points lower at 5031.3. having touched 5009.4 the protection for investors they seemed to have while the at lunch-time on fears for Wall Street. Interest rate fears sent the Dow Jones plummeting, but despite a fall just shy of 110 points by the time London closed, bottom-fishers had re-turned by then to leave the UK market off its lows.

pound was rampant. The two-way pull in Zeneca evident on Thursday after the interim figures went the other way yes-terday, dragging the shares back 62p to £19.90. Its peers fared only a little better, with Glazo Wellcome slipping 38p

MARKET REPORT

MAGNUS GRIMOND

among the oil and retailing sectors. Shell Transport & Trading was the third-biggest faller in the index, relinquishing 15p to 443.5p, the shares hastened to the index of the

MAGNUS GRIMOND

get the double boost of lower money costs and improved overseas results. That helped RMC, with big German operations, put on 32.5p to £11.05. The good news also brought management to gas monitoring group Graseby, was a big gainer as the currency was a big gainer as the currency to this year, a welcome to gas monitoring group Graseby.

the stock market pecking order, boosting the indexes yes results of the latest clinical

terday.
The lower echelons were enlivened by a 63p-a-share agreed bid from Danisco, a maker of food ingredients, for in on the equity boom yester-

Committee's decision to raise the smaller stocks, with the Cortecs, the little biotech-Committee's decision to raise rates by 0.25 per cent. Building materials groups, many of which are also foreign earners, get the double boost of lower money costs and improved coverage results. The helpful of the smaller stocks, with the smaller stocks, with the FISE 250 second-liners's index adding a chunky 52.3 to 4650.5 and the SmallCap index and the SmallCap index appropriate the smaller stocks, with the FISE 250 second-liners's index anology group, spurted 24p to 202.5p for a two-day gain of 40p as the market warmed to the prospects for its new oscillatory. The helpful of the smaller stocks, with the FISE 250 second-liners's index and the SmallCap index and the Small Cap index and the Small Bonar up 25p to 241p and Yule company said on Thursday that it planned to file for approval of the drug in Europe proval of the drug in Europe before September after the trials confirmed earlier posttive findings.

☐ Two directors were cashing in on the equity boom yester-days. Lasmo, which has basked in the glow of the market since its recent results, fell 8.5p to 279p.

But what the pound taketh away, it also giveth back. Yesterday's fall in the currency, taking the three-day fall to around 14 pfennigs against the German mark, left a swathe of British industry

casvarity was another foreign gained added impetus after Dresdner moved the stock on to its buy list, helping the shares climb to the top of the Spencer's deputy chairman, netted £347,000 after selling to its buy list, helping the shares climb to the top of the Spencer's deputy chairman, netted £347,000 after selling to 347.5p after BZW and a 20.5p jump to 447p. Another of the building materials this week, putting on another 39p to £12.26.

But the other big story yesterday was growing optimism that interest rates are near their than the currency.

But the other big story yesterday was growing optimism that interest rates are near their than the currency and the currency are not far behind. TI added 22p to 615.5p and GKN, another of the building materials this week, putting on another 39p to £12.26.

But the other big story yesterday was growing optimism that interest rates are near their than the currency.

But the other big story yesterday was growing optimism that interest rates are near their than the currency.

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DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

OF THE YEAR

Pound's plunge prompts shift from blue chips

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

The pound plunged on the foreign exchange markets yesterday as currency traders responded to a hint from the Bank of England on Thursday that no further interest rate rises were necessary in the short term.

On the stock market, the fall in sterling prompted a shift out of the high-flying FTSE100 in-dex of leading companies into exporters and other secondline stocks that have missed out on the market's surge.

Sterling tumbled another 5 ofcnnigs to DM2-92, 14 pfennigs or almost 5 per cent down on its recent high of DM3.06 against the German currency. The fall was a continuing reaction to comments from the Bank of England, as it raised base rates for the fourth time in as many months, that the cost of money was now consistent with its inflation target.

The Bank's carefully worded statement, accompanying the rise in base rate from 6.75 to 7 per cent, was seen as a clever way of keeping the lid on consumer spending while at the same time avoiding the collateral damage to industry of a sky-high pound. Despite its success, economists said yesterday they did not expect the Bank to make a habit of talking the

pound up or down. Sterling's fall, after its dramatic 25 per cent rise since the beginning of the year, gave a shot in the arm to the FTSE250 index of medium-sized stocks, which closed 52.3 points higher at 4650.5 compared with a 55.5-point fall in the FTSE 100,

which closed at 5,031.3. The leading index was driven lower by Wall Street, which traded sharply lower as investors fretted about reports due next week on inflation and retail sales. Worries that inter-

DM to the £

est rates will have to rise in the US have pushed bond yields higher, emphasising the per-ceived over-valuation of Amer-

ican shares. The rise in London's secondliners ended a long period of underperformance that has seen the smaller stocks lag the leading index by 18 per cent since nuary as investors flocked to the financials and pharmaceuticals that dominate the top

The mid-cap index is loaded with exporters, engineers and other companies highly exposed to foreign, especially European, markets. During the next few holiday weeks, in which few companies are expected to report results, the stock market is expected to be unusually susceptible to currency move-

One trader said: "I expect to see more switching into 250 stocks, but remember that this is the silly season when the market is more vulnerable to erratic

The markets will have to contend with a stream of economic data in the next week, with Monday's producer prices numbers followed by retail prices on Tuesday and unemployment and average earnings figures midweek. Also on Wednesday, the Bank of England will issue its quarterly In-

flation Report and the minutes of last month's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. Beneficiaries of the pound's

fall yesterday included engineers Smiths Industries, Lucas Varity and GKN as well as building stocks such as Blue Circle and RMC, which are among the stocks most vulnerable to movements in interest rates.

The Bank of England was only given the freedom to set interest rates in May, since when it has nudged the rate upwards four times. Its advice to increase rates had been consistently ignored for months by former Conservative Chancellor Kenneth Clarke in the run-up to the general election.

According to Alison Cot-trell, chief economist at Paine Webber: "The Bank of England has only now got to where it is happy, its neutral starting point with interest rates."

She added: "They moved in slow steps, but this built the expectation that they would do another small step every time. They've said, 'In case you are worried, we think we've got to where we want to be now'. It's quite comforting, because it implies that had they thought they needed a half-point increase, they would have done

Despite the hint from the Bank that it would hold off for a few months before raising rates again, most economists still expect base rates to rise again with some believing the peak in the current cycle could he as high as 8.5 per cent.

The Bank did not receive universal praise for its intervention. Richard Jeffrey, group economist at Charterhouse, suid: "I think there is a great danger that when policymakers get involved in currency markets they tend to come off worst. The currency has to be allowed to find its own

Sir Desmond Pitcher: His £310,000 salary has been criticised Photograph: Edward Webb

Institutional investors call for the resignation of the chairman of United Utilities Survival battle for Sir Desmond

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Sir Desmond Pitcher, the embattled chairman of United Utilities, will come under severe ssure to resign next week when a senior non-executive director tells him of intense investor unrest.

It emerged yesterday that Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW and viewed as the City as United's most senior non-executive, held meetings with 10 big investors over the past few days to gauge reaction to the surprise ousting of Brian Staples as chief executive. Sir Peter was left in no doubt

from the meetings that the majority of investors would only be satisfied by Sir Desmond's swift departure. One institution said: -We told him it was not credible even to downgrade Sir Desmond to a non-executive chairman's role. The best recent comparison is with Yorkshire Water, where they got rid of the old board and brought in a new managemeni team."

The investor said United, which is due to announce the outcome of an operational review by October, had to address its "dramatic underperformance" compared with other utility companies. He added: "What does Sir Des do to justify his huge pay package?" Sir Desmond has a basic salary of £310,000.

Another large shareholder saw United's problems as the first test of the Hampel proposals to beef up corporate governance rules.

Sir Desmond refused to gr interviews yesterday, with advisers fearing his comments could inflame tensions further. There's a lot of speculation but no institution has given its name to any of these stories. We can't comment on fumour and speculation." United shares

spectration. Since since sipped further yesterday, dropping 9.5p to 701p.

At United's annual shareholders meeting in Manchester last month Sir Desmond brushed off resignation speculation. "I've no intention of resigning. I have worked to build this company up," he said.

It was unclear whether Sir

Desmond was made aware of Sir Peter's discussions before they began, though sources close to the company said the chairman was kept "fully informed".

The chairman had apparently not intended to justify his position further until the review concluded in the autumn and was said yesterday to be unlikely to change his mind. The Pitch er camp sought to defuse speculation of a rift with Sir Peter. arguing that the talks were merely to clarify the succession issue for when Sir Desmond retires on 2000.

Thomson warns of rise in holiday costs

Andrew Yates

Thomson, the UK's largest tour operator and travel agent, warned yesterday that holiday prices could rise by more than 10 per cent, equivalent to at least £60 on a typical summer holiday costing £600, as a results of controversial proposals being considered by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to overhani the travel market to make it more competitive. The changes, which may

include forcing tour operators to sell travel agents or rename them and preventing agents tying holiday discounts to travel insurance, could also lead to wide scale redundancies across the industry according to industry insiders.

However, the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) refuted the claims. It said the current structure of the industry was anti-competitive and accused the larger tour operators of acting 'dishonesty'

by using there monopoly to limit customer choice and squeeze smaller travel groups out of the market.

The MMC has provisionally found that travel companies of the likes of Airtours, which owns the Going Places travel agency chain, and Thomson. which runs Lunn Poly, are guilty of "certain practices which prevent, restrict or distort competition in the supply of foreign

package holidays" The MMC has criticised travel groups for failing to make the link between tour operators and travel agents clear. There are concerns that tour operators can restrict customer choice by using its travel agency branches to promote its own products in preference to rivals. The MMC is also worried that travel agents only stock brochures of those other tour operators that offer them large commissions and the practice of

tying insurance to discounts

misleads customers.

tract customers by offering discounts. But they are basically pretty dishonest, typically charg-ing a family £117 for travel insurance, compared to £50 at a smaller travel agent," said an AITO spokeswoman said

"Large tour operators at-

Martin Brakenbury, a director of Thomson Travel said yesterday: "We plan to fight the MMC tooth and nail over this. It could push prices up well over 10 per cent.

Takeover-spotting keeps bank sector on the boil

no sign of abating this week. With the notable exception of Nat West, all the banks to have reported their results in the past two weeks have received welcomes ranging from the warm to the frankly ecstatic. Barclays brought proceedings to a dra-matic end on Thursday, with the promise of a bigger share buy-back than expected sending its

shares into the stratosphere. Being fully invested in the banks over the past year or so has been the only sure way of participating in the soaraway stock market. With more than a quarter of the value of the FTSE 100 accounted for by the financial sector, the banks have uably been the market in remonths. A year ago Lloyds

s shares were trading at p, now they are worth 742p. andard Chartered has all but ubled over the same period. There are good reasons for that dramatic rerating of banking shares. In an environment of low inflation coupled with sustainable growth, the earnings quality of financial institutions improves as fewer companies

derperforming businesses. Importantly, capital is being managed as a scarce resource

go bust. Banks have also be-

come much better at managing

their costs and weeding out un-

The stock market's love affair with the banking sector showed good reasons for the re-rating in spite of competition worries

But what has surprised some analysis in the past two weeks is the extent to which share prices, which should already have factored in much of that good news, have continued to rise despite a set of results that have been good but not stunningly so. Barclays, for example, reported a modest 8 per cent rise in underlying profits but saw its shares add the best part of 10 per cent on the day of its results.

What appears to have hap-ened is a shift in focus from the fundamental attractions of the sector - where there are quite serious worries about the incursion of the former building societies and a persistent squeeze on margins - to its

potential for consolidation. Investors are increasingly looking for the next takeover candidate, regardless of its un-

derlying prospects.
That consolidation needs to take place has been clear for a number of years, but it has taken the movement of the former building societies into product lines traditionally seen as the preserve of the clearing

of funds it has been viewed as banks to concentrate minds on the over-supply of banks on

British high streets. Another interesting feature of the reporting season has been the extent to which generalities about the banks have become invalid.

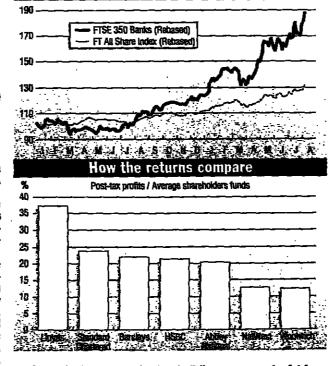
The seven banks in the table below are producing very different returns on their capital because they have become very different sorts of companies. The forces driving a global player such as HSBC are plainly very different from those driving LLoyds TSB, which has made a conscious and successful decision to focus on the retail side of the domestic

The star of the season was undoubtedly Lloyds TSB, where the potential for further cost-cutting from the merger of its constituent parts in 1995 con-

tinues to boost expectations.

It has avoided the temptation of battling it out in the competitive investment banking world and seen its return on capital soar to a massive 40 per

At Barclays, the battle to turn BZW around appears to have been won and the return on



Banking on Outperformance

equity at the investment bank of 12 per cent, while hardly better than its cost of capital, is at least moving in the right direction. Barclays is handing bucketloads of cash back to shareholders, arguably not what its management is paid to do but better than squandering

it as in the past. HSBC and Standard Chartered march to a different tune and both, in different ways are making a success of their overseas franchises. Standard cashed in on the currency turbulence in South-east Asia. HSBC continues to benefit from the booming economies of Asia and is building up a meaningful fran-chise in Latin America.

The black sheep of the sector continues to be Nat West, although its plight appears to have been exaggerated by a press that has scented blood. Certainly its investment banking arm is still in trouble, returning just 2.4 per cent on its capital, but what NatWest appears to have got most wrong is to allow the perception of the bank as a loser to get such a firm grip. Its biggest error has been to allow itself to look weak when, all around, its rivals were looking stronger than perhaps

Saracen claims bid support

Clifford German

The letters of support for HSBC Asset Management in its bid to take over the running of the poorly performing Saracen Value Trust from SFM Investment Management were not watertight commitments. Mr Jim Fisher, the SFM director on the Saracen board claimed last night. HSBC had not yet complied with his request to show him the letter.

Several of the shareholders had told him that they had also asked HSBC to pass a copy of the letter to the board of the trust. There may also be two or three different letters of commitment, added Mr Fisher. The Saracen board will meet

on Monday to consider several options for improving the performance of the trust, which specialises in "value invest-ment" in small companies which are currently deeply out of fashion.

SVT shares trade at a discount of 17-18 per cent to net

asset value, although they gained 2p to 96.5p yesterday. The HSBC proposal will be considered at Monday's meeting, but Mr Fisher ruled out any change of investment preferences could change how to see the considered at Monday's meeting.

ences could change back at any time in favour of small companies with potential for earnings

informative:

With effect from 7 August 1997, First Direct Base Rate has been increased by 0.25% from 6.75% to 7.00% p.a.

With effect from 7 August 1997, the HomeOwner Reserve interest rate has been increased by 0.25% to 13.25% p.a. (APR 13.8%)

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank pic

Ngital 7

BASE RATE

With effect from

7 August 1997

The Royal Bank of Scotland

Base Rate has

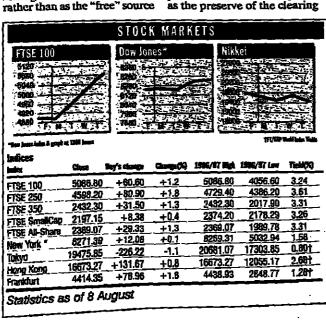
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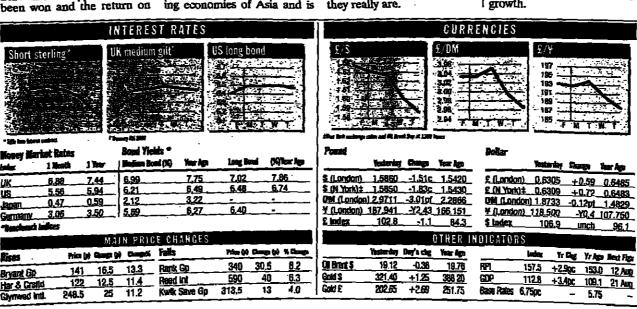
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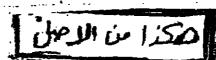
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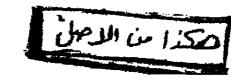


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MCIAL JOURN OF THE YEAR mar of United Will vival batt

MICHAEL HARRISON

'Raging against so-called excess might make good copy but at what point does it spill over into a more general antipathy towards business as a whole and the

pursuit of profit?

Nagging doubts about Labour 100 days on

abour reaches the end of its first 100 days in power in an unfamiliar position. On the defensive. The loss of the Uxbridge byelection, Robin Cook's marital break-up, the Gordon McMaster suicide and the mis-handled affair of Lord Simon's BP shareholding have conspired to present a picture of a Government less in control than it likes to be. To top it all, interest rates have just gone up for the fourth time since Tony Blair took office, increasing the payment on the average mortgage by £40 a month.

Harold MacMillan had an explanation for the sort of quicksand Labour has suddenly run into. Asked once what was hardest thing to handle in government, he replied:

Events, dear boy, events."
Well, the events of the last 10 days bear out that adage. If they make Labour appear more human as a party, more fallible as a government, perhaps that is no bad thing. The stage-managed, news-managed, Mandelsonised way Labour has conducted itself since 1 May has begun to wear a little thin. It has encouraged those who argue Labour is more about style than substance, that it prefers slogans to policies. The critics think they have exposed a "rhetoric gap" between its words and actions.

Labour's response, unfortunately, has been to come up with another gimmick wrapped in a slogan. Mr Blair, we were told yesterday, is going to produce an annual report so that the "shareholders of Britain

ple" can see how well Labour's performance is measuring up to its promises.

This is an irrelevance. Worse still, it distracts attention from the real substantive progress Labour has made, notably in economic man-agement, but also in the regulation of the City, the implementation of competition policy and its commitment to tackle unemployment.

No one could seriously accuse Gordon Brown of not having had a seismic impact since taking over as Chancellor. The decision to give the Bank of England operational independence to set interest rates ranks as one of the most significant constitutional changes since the War.

The jury is still out on how well the policy is working and will remain so until well into next year. It will take until then to reach a judgment on whether the strategy of gently nudging up interest rates a quarter point at a time has succeeded in keeping the cost of borrowing lower than it otherwise might have been, while still delivering a soft land-

ing for the economy.

There is a legitimate fear that it will produce a stand-off between monetary and fiscal policy, encouraging expectations of higher rates and thereby pushing the pound to unsustainable levels. That concern was fuelled by the very modest personal tax increases announced in the Budget at the expense of higher taxes on business. Until this week, the ammunition was mounting.

there would be no more for the foresceable future seems to have done the trick in bringing sterling back down to earth for now.

Similarly, the decision to strip away the Bank's responsibility for banking supervision and bring it under one roof along with all the other City regulatory bodies marks a scachange. The creation of super-SIB is cer-tainly the most significant regulatory change since the 1986 Financial Services Act.

There are questions about how this new overarching body will work. There is a worry that the advantages gained from bringing separate regulatory functions together will be negated by the unwickly and bureaucratic animal that emerges.

There will be ample scope for power battles and there will be plenty of room for empire building, especially given the size of the new headquarters the super-SIB is hunting for. But no one can argue with the boldness of the strategy.

As far as competition policy is concerned, the reassurance, initially at least, came in what the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, promised not to do. There would, she said, be no change in the burden of proof in takeover cases nor any change in the policy of vetting mergers on the basis of their impact on competition.

The decision to replace the Monopolies

But the Bank's latest tactic of combining and Mergers Commission with a more another rise in rates with a broad hint that broadly based Competition Commission and grant the Office of Fair Trading new powers to fine companies engaged in cartels or anti-competitive agreement are also a step forward. The previous government pledged to do much the same but never quite found

the Parliamentary time. Similarly, there can be few grumbles with the reform of the Private Finance Initiative, while Labour has made enough noises to suggest that neither the Social Chapter nor the national minimum wage will prove quite the hogeymen business once feared.

So far, so good. The equity markets have taken New Labour in their stride, the FTSE 100 index rising by 10 per cent since the election, even though the performance

of gilts has been less impressive.

The nagging doubts about Labour concern not the broad sweep of its changes but whether, for all Mr Blair's words, it really is pro-business government. On the one hand Mr Blair has gathered to his breast a small coteric of "can do" business leaders whose endorsement he touchingly believes will cement Labour's credentials with the rest of the business community. Step forward Sir Peter Davis of the Pru, Martin Taylor of Barclays, Gerry Robinson, Alan Sugar and, until he biotted his copybook by being beastly to his cabin crew, Bob Ayling.

out to Railtrack, for a set of profits that were hardly exceptional, and Camelot, for executive bonuses that merely reflected its money-raising success, suggests that Old Labour, red in tooth and claw in a different

way, furks not far beneath the surface.
Raging against such so-called excess might make good copy but at what point does it spill over into a more general antipathy towards business as a whole and the pursuit of profit? Despite her policy statements, Mrs Beckett seems to be intent on referring or blocking every merger that lands on her desk, not always with the backing of her competition experts. Is this to protect consumers or is it really because she distilkes corporate activity?

The Chancellor has spoken often and at length about how New Labour will foster enterprise and sweep away barriers to growth and productivity. But in his attempt to be more "businesslike" by dressing down both for the Mansion House speech and the annual CBI dinner, was he really betraying his latent distrust, even dislike of the City?

The one consolation is that the Conservatives have scarcely won any more business friends during Labour's first 100 days. The attack on such a distinguished businessman as Lord Simon may have drawn blood. But in doing so the Tories seem to have com-pletely forgotten which side their bread is buttered on.

Byatt warns on water companies' dividend payouts

Chris Godsmark

The privatised water companies

In another sign of his increasing concern at recent sub-

tougher price controls from 2000, by suggesting the companies were setting aside too much cash from their profits to cover depreciation charges. A similar argument was used by tember, to be published at the regulator, in her long-running dispute with British Gas over

Mr Byatt has written to all the large water and sewerage special reports on dividends continued to fail to explain the way dividends between the main regulated utility busiwould inset tougher provisions

make annual returns to Ofwat giving detailed operating results for their main regulated water and sewage businesses. But Mr Byatt said the latest set of data did not clearly show the flows of money between different parts of their businesses.

The water companies need lic results. I'm not saying that

see companies provide greater detail on regulated dividends at their next set of results for the ing I want to control dividends.

At the last set of annual results most water groups reported unexpectedly large

discretionary investment pro-

grammes as a sign that con-sumers were sharing in the dis-tribution alongside investors.

German Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view spanner in EMU works

Magnus Grimond

The consensus that monetary union will go ahead on time in 1999 weakened further this week, with attention continuing to focus on the Germans.

Rumours, later squashed that Chancellor Helmut Kohl had died of a heart attack hit sentiment, coming on top of worries stemming from the failure of his tax reform measures. Even so, most observers' trepidation still centres on what the Bundesbank will do with inter-

est rates in the next few weeks. Julian Jessop of Nikko Europe says speculation about an imminent announcement has been a little over-cooked, but he still expects an increase to come in September or October.

Even an uptick of as little as 0.1 per cent would be psychologically significant, coming as the first rise for five years. That could throw a spanner into the vestors who have made fat profits on the reducing yield gap between the Mediterranean currencies and Germany.

Stephen King of James Capel is more sanguine about the impact of higher rates, pointing out that German money costs are still well below the 4 per cent or so indicated as required after a European monetary area comes into effect. But politically, it could stiffen rising resistance to EMU within Germany."

vasion of the UK health food

market by US groups. General

Nutrician Centres is also ex-

panding in the UK, though

IN BRIEF

Fraud alert issued as EU Bank collapses

European Union Bank, which claimed to be the first offshore bank to offer services over the Internet, has collapsed. Based in Antigua, EU Bank was set up in 1994 and last October was included in a Bank of England warning of the potential dangers of deposits with offshore institutions. Coopers & Lybrand's Antiguan arm has been appointed to investigate what went wrong and the Antiguan Office of National Drugs and Money Laundering Policy has issued a fraud alert. No British depositors are thought to have been affected.

Nomura fined £1.1m over racketeers

Nomura Securities was fined a total of yen 200m (£1.1m) by the Japan Securities Dealers Association and the Tokyo Stock Exchange over its illegal trading activities on behalf of sokaiya racketeers. The Japan Securities Dealers Association, which fined Nomura the maximum ¥100m said it had asked all publicly listed securities companies to strengthen supervisory measures. And it has revised its articles to penalise similar violations to cover all securities trading, not just equities, adding that it will penalise similar infringements by banks and insurers in the future.

Memory announces cash-raising move

Memory Corporation, the beleaguered computer chip maker, announced plans to raise more money, probably via a rights issue or placing. The move comes after a disastrous 18 months for the group, which has seen its shares go into freefall and its value fall from more than £350m to just £18m. Memory also announced a tie-up with Micron Technology, a US manufacturer of computer chips, to produce Flash memory cards for digital cameras. Memory raised more than £4m when it floated in December 1994 but only has £1m left. It has been hit by the plunge in the computer chip prices but managed to reduce losses for the six months to June to £1.2m, compared with a loss of £3.1m in the previous year.

Vickers sells Jered Brown for \$14m

Vickers has sold substantially all of the business and assets of the Jered Brown Brothers in the US to Jered Industries, a new company formed by a private investment group and members of the sub-sidiary's management for \$14.3m (£9m). Jered Brown Brothers, which specialises in naval and commercial systems design, engineering manufacturing and service, was acquired by Vickers in 1980.

Oftel to let businesses decide numbers

Oftel, the UK telecommunications regulator, plans to give businesses more choice and control over their telecoms numbering arrangements. Don Cruickshank, director-general of Telecom-munications, said that under the plans businesses and large public organisations can choose to move to the "05" range of telephone numbers. "These plans are in response to clear customer demand." he said. Companies would be allocated blocks of numbers direct and would be able to decide how to use them across the organisation. The scheme is primarily intended for organisations who operate extensive multi-site networks, although smaller companies will also be able to use it. "Calls to 05 numbers would be capped at no more than the national rate, though in most cases it should cost less than this." The 05 range should be introduced by 1999.

Buy-back plans boost Biotechnology

Biotechnology Investments, the Guernsey-based investment company managed by Rothschild Asset Management, proposes to buy back up to 15 per cent of its 55.5 million shares in issue in an attempt to raise the share price, which on Thursday stood at a discount of around 25 per cent to net asset value. The shares jumped 20p to 353.5p on the news, reducing the discount by 5 percentage points. The fund has suffered from the relatively dull performance of biotechnology stocks this year.

Abbey raises mortgage rates

Abbey National is raising its standard variable mortgage rate by 0.25 percentage points following this week's increase in interest rates. The increase takes effect from Monday for new borrowers and from I September for existing customers. The mortgage rate for a loan of up to £59,999 will be 8.45 per cent, for a loan of £60,000 it will be 8.4 per cent and 8.35 per cent for £100,000. In-

Business Correspondent

oliday cos

rmative:

could face further action from the industry regulator after failing to disclose sufficient in-Armation about their generous Vividend payouts.

stantial hikes in dividends, Ian Byatt, the regulator, attacked the companies yesterday for paying "scant attention" to financial figures in their annual submissions to Ofwat, the He also raised the spectre of

pipeline charges.

groups asking them to submit and depreciation by next month. He warned that if they nesses and the quoted holding companies were calculated, he in their operating licences. Each year the companies

to articulate their dividend policy at the time of their pubthere's been no progress on this issue since I first made my concerns known, but it hasn't been good enough," Mr Byatt said. He added that he wanted to

six months to the end of Sepbut I'm equally determined to get better transparency."

rises in dividends, typically in the high teens. South West Water's in Severn Trent's sewerage area. increased by 20.3 per cent, while Thames water's payout soared by 22 per cent.

Most pointed to customer rebate schemes or increases in

But the level of information about dividends paid by the core regulated businesses, the main source of earnings, varied widely between the companies. The additional concern over

depreciation charges came after Ofwat found the companies were setting aside much bigger sums for depreciation than the amount of cash spent on maintaining the assets themselves. A larger depreciation charge would artificially reduce profits at a time when the companies are negotiating the next price review. Mr Byatt has already called for a substantial one-off drop in customer bills.

Separately, Ofwat yesterday approved the second move towards water competition, with vice business customers outside its own region. Anglian will take over a sewage treatment works on the former RAP Finningley base near Doncaster, which is due to be developed in a housing estate. The base is Earlier this year Anglian won

the first so-called "inset appointment", taking over the provision of water to a chicken plant supplied by a neighbouring drinking water company.

TOWARDS, EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means

The claser other countries not to the dotted baseline (Germany

nvestors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the Mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in ten years' time.

AWAY FROM EMPU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMPU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a traure devaluation against the Mark, then they will deseand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The independent asked analysis from: Mikko Europe, Palna Wabber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Dautsche Morgan Greofall Salaman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on Eivill starting on time

Probability EMU starts on time: Probability EMU is delayed: Probability EMU never happens:

(63% last week) (32% last week) (5% last week)

Digital TV launch faces delays

Chris Godsmark

The consortium formed by British Sky Broadcasting and British Telecom may be forced io postpone next year's launch of a digital satellite television service because of delays in gaining approval from regulators in the UK and Europe.

Investors in the service, called British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), fear the European Commission is taking much longer than expected to give the plans the go-ahead, which would involve injecting £265m into the consortium to subsidise the cost of the set-top boxes that

decode programmes. British Sky broadcasting will

digital television service in the spring, with the full interactive home shopping and educational channels provided by BIB in the я<u>итт</u>ег.

It emerged this week that the rival digital cable service planned by Telewest has already been put back from the end of this year to coincide with BIB's launch.

Despite attempts by BIB to accelerate the process, Karel van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, has given no indication about whether he would agree to the proposed subsidies of around £200 a box. to bring the price in retailers down to about £200. The EC is understood to have indicated that it needed extra time ex-

amining the plans, which could September at the earliest and become a template for other digital services across the European Union.

Though Oftel, the UK telecommunications watchdog, is thought to be closer to approving the scheme, it has also not reached a final conclusion. The partners, BT, BSkyB, the Midland Bank and the Panasonic parent group Matsushita, had hoped to hear from all the regulators involved by the middle of this month.

The Independent Television Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry are also involved. An industry source said it

time was "critical" for BIB to meet the spring deadline. Electronics groups which intend to make the set-top box-

es, led by Matsushita, have been unable to invest in production facilities until the reg-ulators give BIB the go-ahead. More time would then be needed to test the systems and distribute the boxes to retailers. A BIB spokesman yesterday insisted the launch dates for both the television and inter-

He added: "If we want to delay it by a month or two then we can, but at the moment we are working to the original sched-

active services would not be put

Holland & Barrett sale raises healthy £100m

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Britain's best-known health food retailers, has been sold to an American group for £100m. NBTY, formed in the US as Natures Bounty in 1960, has bought the chain from Gehe, the German pharmaceuticals group which acquired it as part of the Lloyds Chemists deal in January. The existing management, led by managing director Barry Vickers will continue to run the company, and NBTY said there would be no redundancies among the 2,250 staff.

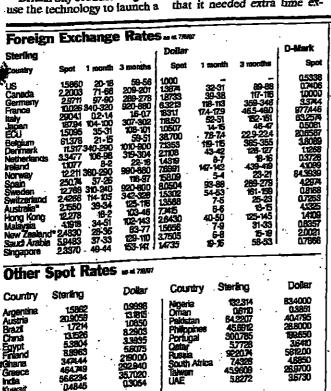
Holland & Barrett, one of

Holland & Barrett has 402 shops and last year achieved profits of £8.2m on sales of £110m. NBTY plans to continue the group's expansion plans. Barry Vickers, Holland & Barrett's managing director, wel-comed the deal, saying it would help fund further expansion and aid investment in better in-store technology and additional ad-

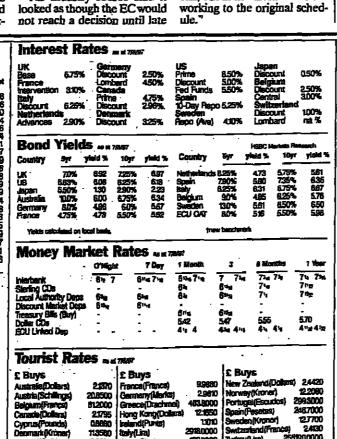
from a smaller base.

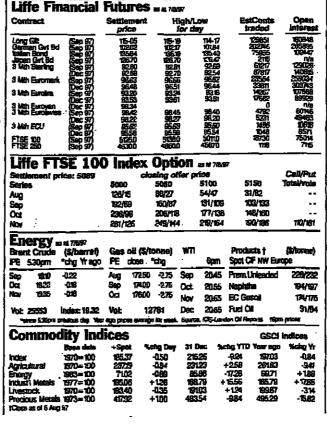
The deal will give NBTY combined sales of £260m this The deal means a further inyear with 500 stores.

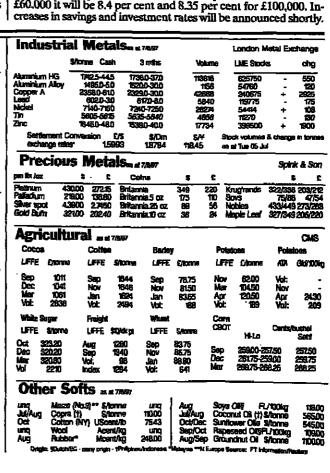
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PHILIPS

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o	f four formations	for the others in yo	our team.
F 4	ORMATION A. 4- Defenders,	4-2 4 Midfielders,	2 Strikers
F	ORMATION B. 4 Defenders,	-3-3 3 Midfielders,	3 Strikers
1	ORMATION C. 5 Defenders,	- 3-2 3 Midfielders.	2 Strikers

FORMATION D. 3-5-2

3 Defenders, Once you have chosen your formation and team name Once you have chosen your formation and team name pick your team of 11 players and 1 manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and their total value must not go over £40million. Having made a note of your team dial our registration hotline. Please try to use a tone telephone one which makes tone noises when you dial, although pulse telephones can be used to register your team.

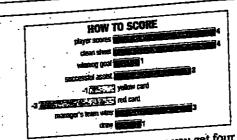
5 Midfielders,

2 Strikers



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INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

CODE PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE	CODE PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE P	LAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
		(£m)		Bol	2.5	560 Lundekvam	Sou	1.2		harpe Libeiro	Lee Lee	3.5 1.5	845 Whelan 846 Huckerby	Cov Cov Cov	3.0 3.5 1.5
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300 Seaman	Ars	4.0	457 Fairclough	Bol Bol	2.0 2.5	565 Calderwood	Tot	2:9 2.2		arker aylor	Lei	1.6	849 Dyer 850 Freedman	Cry Cry	2.0 2 .0
303 Lukic	Ars	1.0 3.0	458 Taggart 459 Bergsson	Bol	1.5	566 Austin 567 Edinburgh	Tot Tot	1.6	686 I	zzett	Lei Lei	2.1 3.2	853 Ndah	Cry	1.0
304 Manninger. 305 Bosnich	Ars AV	4.0	460 Duberry	Chel Che	3.0 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	568 Carr	Tot	1.2 1.5	,	,ennon Guppy	Lei	1.7	854 Shipperley 855 Ward	Cry Der	2.0 2.5
306 Oakes	AV Par	1.5	463 Petrescu 464 Lambourde	Che	3.0	569 Mabbutt 570 Dicks	Tot WH	3.5	: 689 E	Barnes	Liv Liv	3.0 5.2	856 Sturridge	Der	5.0
307 Watson 308 Lesse	Bar Bar	1.0	465 Lebocuf	Che Che	5.0 2.5	573 Rieper	· WH ·	2.7 3.0		Redknapp McManaman	=:	. 5.9	857 Wanchope	Der Eve	3.0 6.5
309 Flowers	Bla	5.2 1.5	466 Sinclair 467 Daish	Cov	2.7	574 Hall 575 Potts	WH WH	1.5	694 7	Thomas	Liv	3.0 4.0	858 Ferguson 859 Barmby	Eve	4.5
330 Filan 333 Branagan	Bla Bol	1.2	468 Shaw	Cov Cov	2.2 2.2	576 Ferdinand	WH	2.5 2.2	695	_eonhardsen Giggs	Man	7.4	860 Deane	Lee Lee	3.0 1.5
334 De Goey	Che	1.0 1.0	469 Burrows 470 Haworth	Cov	1.5	577 Impey 578 Turner	WH WH	· 2.0		Giggs Beckham	Man Man	7.0 7.0	864 Hasslebank	Lee	3.0
335 Grodas 336 Ogrizovic	Che Cov	2.2	473 Edworthy	CP CP	1.5 2.0	578 Turner 579 Perry	Wim	4.0 1.5	,	Keane Butt	Man	7.0	865 Claridge	Lei Lei	3.5 5.5
337 Hedman	Cov	1.0	474 Gordon 475 Muscat	CP	1.0	580 Cunninghan	n Wim Wim	2.0	700	Poborski	Man	3.5 3.6	866 Heskey 867 Fowler	Liv	9.5
338 Nash	CP CP	1.0 1.0	476 Tuttle	CP CP	2.0 2.0	583 Thatcher 584 McAllister	Wim	: 1.5		Lee Batty	New New	3.8	868 Berger	Liv	4.0 2.5
339 Day 340 Poom	Der	1.2	477 Linighan 478 Roberts	CP	3.0	585 Kimble	Wim	1.5	705	Gillespie	New	2.5	869 Owen 870 Scholes	Liv Man	6.0
343 Hoult	Der Eve	1.6 3.0	479 Hreidresson	CP	1.0	MII	DFIELD	I :	706	Beardsley Ketsbara	New New	2.0 2.0	873 Cole	Man	6.2
344 Southall 345 Gerrard	Eve	1.5	480 Stimac 483 C Powell	Der Der	3.3 1.8			2.5		Blinker	SW	2.5	874 Solskjaer 875 Sheringham	Man Man	7.0 5.0
346 Martyn	Lee	3.3 1.2	483 C Powell	Der	1.5	600 Platt 603 Parlour	Ars Ars	2.4		Hyde	S₩ a S₩	1.8 1.7	876 Nevland	Man	2.0
347 Beeney 348 Keller	Lee Lei	2.5	485 Eranio	Der Eve	2.5 1.9	605 Vieira	Ars	4.5 6.0		Whittinghan Carbone	SW	3.0	877 Shearer	New New	10.0 7.4
349 Poole	Lei	1.5 3.5	486 Phelan 487 Short	Eve	3.0	606 Overmars 607 M Rodrigue	Ars ez Ars	∴ 2.0	734	Magilton	Sou Sou	2.4 1.5	878 Asprilla 879 Ferdinand	New	. 5.0
350 James 353 Warner	Liv Liv	1.0	488 Watson	Eve	2.7 3.0	607 M Rodrigue	AV	1.9		Slater Oakley	Sou	1.2	880 Tomasson	New	4.0 2.0
254 Schmeiche	l Man	5.5	489 Unsworth 490 Hinchcliffe	Eve Eve	3.5	609 Townsend	AV AV	3.2 4.1	737	Anderton	Tot	6.0	883 Gudjonsson 884 Humphreys	New She	2.5
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356 Given 357 Hislop	New	2.5	494 Kelly 495 Wetherall	Lee Lee	2.5	634 Bullock	Bar Bar	1.2 1.5	740	Ginola	Tot	3.5 3.0	886 Hirst 887 Le Tissier	She Sou	5.5 7.0
358 Pressman	SW Sou	3.0 1.8	496 Molenaar	Lee	2.5	635 Redfearn 636 Eaden	Bar	1.2	743 744	Sinton Nielsen	Tot Tot	2.5	888 Evans	Sou	1.5
359 Taylor 360 Beasant	Sou	1.0	497 Dorigo 498 Robertson	Lee Lee	1.2 2.5	637 Tinkler	Bar Bla	1.0 3.0	745	Williamson	WH	2.0	889 Ostenstad	Sou Tot	3.2 5.9
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366 Sullivan	Wim	2.7	503 Elliott 504 Watts	Lei	1.6	643 Sherwood 644 Fliteroft	Bla	3.0	749 750	Berkovic Lomas	WH WH	2.5 3.0	896 Holdsworth		3.5
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		2.5	507 Harkness	Liv	.1.2	646 Thompson 647 Pollock	Bol	1,2	754 755	Earle Ardley	Wim Wim	2.0	899 Euell	Wim	1.3
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408 Adams 409 Keown	Ars Ars	4.5	536 Irwin 537 Pailister	Mar Mar	3.0	656 Babeyaro	Che Cov	3.0 1.8	803	Wright	Ars	7.2	905 Hodgson	Bla Bol	5.
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433 Southgat 434 Ebiogu	AV	3.0	539 Johnsen	Mai Mai	3.5	659 McAlliste	r Cov		806	Joachim	AV AV	2.4	908 Strachan	Cov	3 2
435 Nelson	AV AV	1.2 3.0	543 Albert	Nev	v 4.1	660 Salako 663 Johansen	Cov		807	Collymore Wilkinson	Bar	8.1 1.2	930 Smìth	Cry Der	2
436 Wright 437 Scimeca	ΑV	2.2	544 Howey 545 Peacock	Nev Nev	y 3.0	664 Simpson	Der Der	. , 3.0	809	Hendrie	Ваг Ват	1.5 1.5	933 Kendall 934 Graham	Eve	2
438 Grayson	AV Bar	2.2 2.2 1.5	546 Barton	Nev	v 3.3	666 D Powell	Det	1.2	830	Hristov Sutton	Bla	4.5	935 O'Neill	Lee Lei	. 4
439 Moses 440 Appleby	Bar	2.0	547 Beresford 548 Blondeau	New SW	2.2	667 Van Der	Laan Dei De	1.2	834	Gallacher	Bla Bla	3.0 4.0	936 Evans	Liv Man	7
443 Thomps	on Bar Bar	1.0 1.0	549 Nolan	s₩	1.9 1.9	669 Hunt	De	. 2.0	835 836	Dahlin McGinlay	Bol	2.2	938 Dalglish	New	7
444 Krizan 445 Berg	Bla	3.4	550 Atherton 553 Walker	SW SW	2.5	670 Parkinson	o Eve Eve	2.2	837	Blake	Bol Che	2.7	939 Pleat 940 Jones	She	7
446 Le Saux		5.0 3.0	554 Stefanovi	c SW	1.6	674 Farrelly	· Eve	2.0	838	Zola Vialli	Che Che	3.5	943 Francis	Sou Tot	2
447 Colema 448 Hendry	Bla	4.4	555 Newsome 556 Monkou	SW So	, 1.7	675 Stuart 676 Speed	Ev	2.7	840	M Hughes	s Che	4.4	944 Redknapp 945 Kinnear	WH Win	
449 Kenna	Bla z Bla	1.9 2.0		Sor	u 2.5	677 Bowyer	Le Le	3.0	843 844	Dublin	Cov	3.5	740 Kinneal	44 177	. 4
450 Hencho	Z Bla		558 Benali 559 Van Gobl	Son hel Son	- 46	678 Wallace	Le	•			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	K	allowed to cates. Normal Mir- the		

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

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Peridan in

sport

England find belated streak of defiance

Jon Culley says Atherton's men have taken a leaf out of their rivals' book

the Property and

ster today, call;

130-525-260 Lone

30-525-259 pulses

of Ireland: 15:30 121 (3)

Just when it seemed they had surrendered all hope of prising the Ashes from Australia's grasp, England conspired in a display of splendid defiance in the Nottingham sunshine. Undermined though it was by Shane Warne's guile in the final Shane warne's guite in the mai session, it had made uplifting watching for a 13,500 crowd who had fully expected to see Australia bat the home side out of the watch and out of the of the match and out of the

Realists and cynics might argue that it came a day too late, that seven wickets for 116 is all well and good but of some-what less therit when it follows 311 for 3, as Australia had been when Andrew Caddick struck the first blow of the morning.

Despite England's fightback, Australia still amassed a total of consequence, gathering runs at Thursday's 100-per-session pace regardless of the falling

But one should not carp too much. England, who could have been forgiven wilting spirits after an opening day of heavy punishment and scant good fortune, now revealed the kind of character, for which Australia's renowned resolve is the model, that the David Lloyd regime have been trying to ingrain upon England's na-

Alec Stewart's extraordinary performance quite rightly dominates the thoughts. The longer Australia batted, the deeper be-



Alec Stewart watches and waits as Australia's Shane Warne bowls to Mike Atherton at Trent Bridge yesterday

came the worry that the 34-yearhis boldness bring him a first himself one liberty too many. old wicketkeeper-batsman century against Australia. If Stewart can reflect with

would not have the stamina to open the innings after almost a day and a half behind the stumps in the wilting heat. Not only did Stewart defy the

doubts, however, he gave the England innings the start it required to maintain the momentum set up by their bowlers. Attacking the Australian bowling, not least Warne, with a gusto that thrilled the home

To dominate Warne requires

a batsman to score regularly and heavily, forcing him to change his line of attack and to rethink his fields. Stewart clearly came armed with this strategy, much as he might have preferred a less demanding approach.

He was set for one of the more impressive hundreds of the summer when, to his and the crowd's profound disappointcontingent, he deserved to see ment, he finally, fatally, allowed

some satisfaction on the day, then so should England's pace bowling spearhead. Dean Headley, Devon Malcolm and Andrew Caddick bowled not only with great heart but much

With attention fixed on the debut-making Hollioake

he turned himself into a high-

ly competent fielder in the out-

field and the middle distances.

He also developed a good, ac-

curate throw. In the pressure-

cooker atmosphere of

contemporary international

skill to restrict Australia to a

total two thirds of what had

been expected,

third Test appearance. Yet the Kent man bowled yesterday in the manner of one well established at this level, his figures satisfying David Lloyd's demand for accuracy as well as wickets. For his part, Caddick was at

times inspired and deserving of better luck while Malcolm, who had greeted his recall with some barbed comments about the capriciousness of the selectors, kept his promise to brothers, it was easy to forget prove a point with a fiery spell that Headley is making only his that, at its height, yielded the

and, critically, Steve Waugh in the space of 20 deliveries, exposing the Australian tail for Headley to complete the job.

Against Warne, a formidable weapon even on a wicket as inherently good as this one, England will need to play exceptionally well today to deny their opponents a substantial advantage. But they should at least avoid the humbling that

toss makes the fielder's effort and then they enabled the While they may nudge each

bowlers to take full advantage

of more helpful conditions on

It was clear that a lot of hard

work had gone into the fielding.

Often this seems to be a de-

partment of the game in which

England come second to the op-

position, be it Australia or who-

ever. The lesson of Trent Bridge

is that top-class fielding makes

the second day.

wickets of lan Healy, Warne

Photograph: David Ashdown

McCague bowled a terrifying four-wicket spell in support of his side's mountain of runs. The only significant partnership of the Essex first innings then began, between the cautious Paul Grayson - a former opener now charged with shepherding fours, carved to every corner. a fragile tail - and Ronnie Essex members would have Irani, who had been somewhat

Kent delayed

by Prichard

JOHN COLLIS

Kent 525-9 dec

reports from Canterbury

Essex 156 and 277-5

Were it not for a doughty cap-

tain's innings by the imping Paul Prichard, Essex might well have been rolled over inside

three days here, leaving the sun

scorched Canterbury Festival

with a blank Saturday. As it is a healthy number of Kent supporters will roll up today, expecting to celebrate victory at a crucial stage of the season, with their team in most heart to

with their team in good heart to sustain a title challenge.

match was confirmed when, on

Thursday evening, Martin

Kent's domination of the

reckless early in his innings. Yesteday morning, they stiffened Essex's sinews by batting confidentally and in face saving mode for more than an hour. There followed a remarkable collapse, even for a weary team. Paul Strang provoked it when persuaded Grayson to balloon a ball from the brisk Julian Thompson in the direction of

extra cover, where the Zimbabwean secured a diving catch at ground level. After three overs, four more wickets and three further runs, Essex were

following on.
Although Prichard is now in his third year as the Essex cantain, by his high standards he has had a comparatively modest time with the bat since taking a double century from Sussex in August 1993. But when Graham Gooch made his sudden departure from the county game, he opened the throttle, making 120 in the old man's farewell match and now improving on

He is a phlegmatic, unfussy player capable of sudden bursts of unpremeditated violence. Yesterday he pulled a ham-string on 69, calling for Darren Robinson as his runner, and continued to perform while remaining almost immobile in the crease. And yet the sequence of six scoring strokes that took him past 100 were all

liked similar muscular resistance from the Stuart Law. but the Australian faced only nine balls in the match. Once more it was Grayson who extended the fight, studiously protecting his end until caught on the hop by Alan Ealham, and Danny Law continued the rearguard action. Essex ended the day 92 runs away from asking Kent to

of the Championship, albeit

Without contrivance, how-

ever, there is little chance of con-

juring a positive result: and there is no chance of the two captains

conferring and coming to a

mutual compromise, not after

Thursday's shenanigans when

feelings ran high during the

pitch battle. The object of their

disagreement turned in a disap-

pointing performance as well, the

pitch's lifelessness contributing

Gloucestershire in any case

were forced to spend too long

to the negative turn of events.

only by a point.

Young steps up rate

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from Tauriton Gloucestershire 350-8 dec Somerset 191-3

other geographically, Gloucestershire and Somerset have looked to be poles apart in thinking during this game. The disagreement over which pitch should have been used is nothing compared with the respective approaches of contriving a possible finish to the game.

Gloucestershire displayed a certain degree of urgency on the way to maximum batting points. In-form Shaun Young cracked an entertaining 79-ball 83, which made his partner and captain Mark Alleyne look pedes-trian on the way to his 70 off 123 deliveries.

Young is going to pose a tricky problem for Gloucestershire. Not only is he scoring plenty of runs, but he has also taken 29 Championship wickets. The Tasmanian wants to return to the county next season, but so does the West Indies captain Courtney Walsh, who is due a testimonial by Glouces-

tershire next season. The Gloucestershire hearts were not really focused on rapid runs, their minds appearing set on the compromise of 11 points, which would at least restore them to the head

over the residue of their first innings, and there was aimost as much time lost fetching the ball from the boundary (a task for both sides) on a day of lessthan-distinguished bowling. Somerset, however, did begin

ing off 30 in just 17 balls. Their captain Peter Bowler found the boundary as easily as Young had earlier in the day to reach a halfcentury - his first in the Cham-pionship for two months. Together with Mark Lathwell

who is just rediscovering his touch, Bowler shared in a century partnership for the third wicket. Lathwell was markedly quicker in reaching his halfcentury - 82 balls and seven boundaries confirming his timing and choice of shot. He pulled imperiously and drove unstoppably - all in unspeakably hot and humid conditions

Malcolm sharpens his performance in the field

HENRY BLOFELD

MIKE CAREY

reports from Edgbaston

The hazards of playing cricket

in Birmingham's sub-tropical

heat were probably not on the

agenda when the young men of

Zimbabwe were briefed on the

do's and don't's of touring. So

their bowlers had to learn first

hand vesterday on the second

day of the NatWest Under-19

Test that there was no hiding

place on the flattest of

What a difference it makes if all the catches are held. The only blemish in Australia's long first innings was a fiendishly difficult leg-side stumping chance given by Mark Waugh off Adam Hol-lioake. Nothing destroys bowlers' confidence more than missed chances.

Right through that disheart-

at any time in the series. Count- fielders by practice and appliless runs were saved and even cation. Devon Malcolm, who is somewhat less than a dynamic athlete. was keeping the batsmen to singles at third man where at other times they would have

been able to take two. It must be accepted that there will never be 11 Nasser Hussains in the same side. There will be a gazelle or two, just as there will almost certainly be the odd

One of the day's little ironies

was that they took a wicket with

the first ball of the morning and

another four overs later, but it

was the falsest of dawns; Eng-

land scored 217 runs before

lunch and another 180 in the

innings of 116 by Andrew

Flintoff, England's captain,

which, even allowing for the

shortcomings of some of the

bowling and the nearness of one

boundary (this pitch is on the

edge of Edgbaston's large

At the heart of it all was an

afternoon session.

be immersed in gloom for the

over must not shuffle off to third man and allow himself to cricket, the more sluggish fieldnext six balls. If that happens, a snick to third man will almost certainly result in easy runs. Geoffrey Boycott was not a centre of the fielding cog. By

Concentration is all-impor-

tant, just as it is with batting and bowling. A bowler who has

just had 20 runs taken off an

ening first day, England's fieldmaturally athletic mover but coming away from the stumps themselves to become reliable by hard work and application to take a poor throw on the full

It seems heresy to say in the

current cricket climate that

Flintoff looks a more complete

batsman than some of the more

publicised recent members of

this side. He knows the where-

abouts of his off-stump, defends

with a exemplary straightness

and picks off errors of line and

length with withering power

Mluleki Nkala smoothly to the

long-off boundary to get off the

From the moment he drove

behold.

and certainty.

ers should make every effort to imitate Boycott. The wicketkeeper also plays a most important role as the

mark, the bowling was dismissed

to all parts, mostly off the

middle of his bat, and he made

a century before lunch from only

75 balls, with 12 fours and five

sixes, the latter usually with

a mere 29 deliveries and it was

looking a shade too simple for

him when he went after a very

short, very wide ball from the

persevering Aubrey Stein, who bowled 22 overs unchanged

either side of lunch, and was

He made his second 50 from

effortless pull-drives.

look better it was. Seeing the wicketkeeper set the example, as Alec Stewart did so spiendidly in Australia's innings, is an inspiration to the fielders.

The loss of the toss at Trent Bridge was a body-blow for England, and it was greatly to captain Mike Atherton and Stewart's credit that they never allowed the others to lose heart. They prevented Auscomplete control on Thursday ganda.

Flintoff will clearly warm the

hearts of Lancastrians, (and

there are one or two that need

warming) for years to come. It

was gratifying to see the Zim-

off. Their bowlers had learned

a lot about the merits of length

the bowling seem that much tralia's batsmen from taking sharper. It is such good propa-Flintoff shines after Zimbabwe's false dawn

combination of bowlers who

could give them an element of

control against the vigorous

stroke play of England's middle

order. Even their spinners could

babwe youngsters applaud him not do it. After their problems in the heat it was no surprise that Zimbabwe looked vulnerable against Ryan Sidebottom and Alex Tudor with the new ball. They were swiftly reduced to 43

Their day had started more encouragingly when Stephen Peters was caught at short leg

They were swiftly reduced to 43 off Stein's first ball. Stein also for 4 and must pray for a mirhad Giles Haywood picked up acle (or perhaps a sub tropical in the gully, but afterwards the storm) to get them out of this tourists struggled to find a mess.

Total (for 2, 49.4 overs) Pall: 1-23, 2-54. rome 1-23, 2-54.
To hat: P S Jones, M E Trescophick, 1R J Turn-er, G D Rose, Mushten, Ahrmad, K J Shine, A P 70087. Heat: B Dudleston and A Clari Surrey v Durbasi

THE OVAL: Durham (4pts), with ! toings wickets standing, are 2' SURREY - First landings 350 for 9 dec (J D Retailse 76, I J Ward 56; J Wood 4-73).

Betts c Lewis b M P Bicknet ing a Ward b Santain d not out Brown c Brown b M P Biclimell a (b3, fb7, nb6) Entres (15. Mr. | 1007 | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. | 13. |

M J Restor C Busher b Segion 1

M J Restor C Busher b Arain

M M Bets not out
Extree (07, 155, nb5) 1

Total (16r 7, 95, 10 overs) 24;

Palt 138, 2-116, 3-118, 4-209, 5-215, 6-239, 7-241.

race 1.36, 2-116, 3-118, 4-205 6-239, 7-241. To bath J Bolling, S J E Brown, J Woo. Boulding: M P Bicknell 10-4-24-1; 1 10-1-34-1; Levis 6-2-17-0; Saptem 37-1-12-94-3; Artim 30-10-49-2; 1 2-0-13-0. .-c. us: V A Holder and R Palmer. Sussex v Leicesterskire

EASTROUGHE: Sussex (Spts) have ecored 330 for 6 in their first lealings against Lalcuster-

ZMBABWE - First lanings 208 (M A Verten 50; R J Sidebottom 7-30).

ENGLAND — First Innings.
(Ournight: 155 for 1)
S D Paters o Ferrera b Steyn
G R Haywood c Eteorrae b Steyn "A Firstoff o Vermulein b Steyn "A Firstoff o Vermulein b Steyn "C Monts o Erasmus b McCoun "I Deman to Sus /-4.29, 8-504.
Did oot bet: R / Substitute.
Bouling: Nich 25-2-140-1; Steyn:
McCurr 13-1-63-2; Steyn: McCurr 13-1-63-2; Steyn:
McCurr 13-1-63-1; Steyn: 9-0-53-0
10-0-70-0.

10-0-70-0.

ZBMBABWE — Second Innings
In Fermins — Consier b Franks — 5.

L S Melicot-Bruss, the b Skiebottom — A.
In A Varnauelen a Hayb o Skiebottom — 6.

A P Hoffman not out — 5.

B Frasnus c Morra b Sidebottom — 2.

M L Natia not out — 2.

Eutrus (64, b7, v2, nb6) — 19.

Felt 1-6, 2-6, 3-13, 4-43, 5-60.

Vo hat: YC Delport, A Stepn, B D McCoun, I A Enseling of the second provided in To bath fC Delport, A Steyn, B D M Engelbrecht. Unaphress J D Borst and K E Pelmer. four match

Second day of four, 11.0 today Yorkshire v Pakistan A Yorkshire won toss: YORKShirt - First lamings 243 (D Byes 84; Azter Mahmood 5-86).

Arber Michmood S-68).

PAIGETAM A - First Innings.

Overnight, 91 for 3)

Mushad Jamesheed b Herniton

Whochenmed Walson Bw b Huschson

Rane Ceytum b Hamilton b Herniton

Arber Meltemood & Vaughten b Herniton

Jamed Queber & Herniton b Sheerwood

Andul Rezoals b Hismitton

All Hussin Rod C Paries b Huschison

Should Airbert not one bas (b11, b2, w4, nb12)...

AMA LIFE LEAGUE (One day, 2.0): Centerbury: Kent v Esse. Old Trafford: Lancachie v War-wickshire. Lord's: Middleses: v Hampehre. Northampton: Northamptonshire: v Worcester-shire. Transton: Somerset v Goudstonshire. The Ovek Surrey v Durham, Eastbourner. Sussex v Information.

HENDER COLEMES (2-MANPIONSHEP) (two days, 1.1.0): Palkisand CC: Berkshire v Witshare. Stouth: Buckenghenthrus v Carbindgelike. St Austell: Comwell v Carbindshep. Liebenheiter. Norfick v Suffek, Jesenbeet: Norfinanteriard v Lincolnshire. Wellingsom: Stropshire v Dosset.

Lancashire ROUND-UP Nathan Wood rescued Lancashire against Warwickshire at

Woods wades

in to save

Blackpool yesterday. Needing 88 to wrap up their fourth championship win in five games, Lancashire hit trouble at 45 for 6 from 24 overs, after Warwickshire's Graeme Welch had accounted for five of their batsmen. But Wood, the 22-year-old son

of former Lancashire and England opener Barry, held Lancashire together before Warren Hegg and Gary Yates saw them through to a three-wicket win. Wood's painstaking innings lasted two-and-three-quarter hours and he faced 112 balls for his 26 runs to shore up one end.

He was dismissed by Dougie Brown with the score on 67, but Hegg and Yates made sure there would be no more mistakes. Hegg scored 16 from 52 balls

and Yates 14 from seven balls. and his third four took Lancashire past the target. Then win took them into joint fifth place in the table, level with Warwickshire and Yorkshire.



Sheridan in doubt for Leeds

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Leeds will be without their regular scrum-half, Ryan Sheridan, for the match at Bradford tomorrow night that could keep their mathematical chance of winning the Stones Super League title alive for another

Sheridan damaged ankle ligaments in the defeat by North Queensland last week and his coach, Dean Bell, is delaying a decision on who will replace him until the eve of the match.

Graham Hoiroyd could switch to play scrum-half, while both Dean Lawford and Gavin Brown are on stand-by.

Bell must also decide whether to risk Richie Blackmore, the New Zealand international centre who has been out for two months with a similar, but more serious injury. Blackmore has trained fully for the first time this week and the

Glasgow Council's rugby league

development officer, Graeme

Thompson, believes a European

Super League club in the city

would provide the catalyst the

feasibility study into setting up

Thompson feels there would be

The Mariners' Glasgow side

a massive potential audience:

would play at Firbill, Partick

Thistle's football ground, and

hope to be up and running by 1999 - a prospect which clear-

He said yesterday: "It has al-

ly excites Thompson.

An Australian club, Hunter

Giasgow franchise and

Mariners, have conducted a peal.

sport needs in Scotland.

temptation to use a player of his strike-power, for at least part of the match, will be strong.

"It is only a matter of time before Bradford sew up the title and we just have to try and ensure that they don't do it against us," Bell said. "We know that we have come up short in the previous games between the sides, so there is a lot of local pride at stake."

Bradford have to check the fitness of James Lowes, Paul Anderson, Jon Scales and - almost inevitably - Robbie Paul before Matthew Elliott can finalise his side.

Oldham, badly needing a victory to prevent them be-coming admit at the foot of the table, are at St Helens, who are without Vila Matuatia and Steve Prescott with injuries picked up in the World Club

Championship in Australia. Saints have "had a word" with the group of players who adopted dyed blond hair for the trip. attracting criticism - especial-

looking a realistic one after the

success of the recent Scotland

ence for the sport. Even though

Edinburgh is the home of rug-

by union, league has its own ap-

"With it being played in the

summer, it could attract football

fans along and even those who

don't follow it now would soon

ly European it needs to leave

the M62 corridor and I'm sure

Glasgow could tempt players

easily enough. For some, it

would be a dream come true to

"If Super League is to be tru-

"I think there is a big audi-

internationals.

pick up the rules.

ly when they were losing heavily - that they were not taking it seriously. "You only do that sort of thing at the end of the season or when you are right on top of your game," the club's chief executive, David Howes, said. "It was a bit of misplaced

bonding." Paris, one of the clubs Oldham could hope to catch, play Halifax in the southern French town of Narbonne today - after which they will travel to England for their WCC play-off against Saints on Wednesday. Warring-ton will have Salesi Finau beack from suspension against Salford, while Andrew Duncan plays

the last match of his loan period with the club before returning to London Broncos. Castleford have ended any uncertainty about the future of their teenage scrum-half or

hooker, Danny Orr, by improving an extending his confract, which will now run until 2000. Orr had been a target for the Australian club, Perth Reds.

Glasgow aims for Super League "I do a lot of work in schools and there are already a lot of youngsters playing the game,

but they need something to

aim for and heroes to look up

provide." Bob Ferres, the Mariners chief executive, said: "We have offered our services to the people who are driving it and we are waiting to hear how we can proceed."

Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, said: "We are always keen on the spread of Super League and we would be pleased to hear from anybody interested in getting rugby league going in Glasgow."

Britannic Assurance County Championship hird day of four; 11.0 today Kent v Essex

caught in the gully.

Inings
Nent, (6).

Abra son 255
NENT - First implings \$25 for 9 dec (M V Florring 138, A P Wells 109, M A Earham 58, P A Strang 55, G R Country 53).

ESSEX - First implings (Overnight: 80 for 5)
R C bank of Wells b Thompson 56
A P Grayson c Strang b Thompson 44
D R Law c Meash b Earham 17
IR J Rollins c Marsh b Thompson 44
IR J Rollins c Marsh b Thompson 45

Marsh b Earham 45

Ar Lisepour and Ar Lisepour Ar

To sec Th 3 House, N + Western, S J W An-dew, P M Such. Soming: McCagle 10-1-48-1; Eshtern 17-4-47-1; Thomson 17-3-68-1; Stong 26-8-83-1; Rem-ing 10-6-25-1. Unspires: J C Belderstone and P Willey. Lancasbire v Warwicksbire BLACKPOOL: Lancastire (24pts) heat War-winisture (4) by three wickets. WARWICKSHIRE - First lonlegs 130 (P J Mer-tin 6-46; I D Austin 4-45).

LANCASHIRE - First traines 382 (G D Lloyd 75, I D Austin 68; G Welch 5-115). WARMARCHERE — Second Immings (Overnight: 24.1 for 8) A F Glies c Yates h Auston T Frest c and b Shediod A A Danald not old. Extres (BY, VQ, 1912) Total (88.2 overn)

Watchrson 3-0-11-0.
LANGASHINE — Second trainings
JER Gallion is Walch
NT Wood o Wagh is Brown
NH Faithrother is Welch
GD Llayd o Wagh is Welch
ME Heavey of Posch Donald
Medianon is Walch
LD Austin of Prost is Welch
ME Heavey of Rose is Welch
ME Heavey of Rose is Welch
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ME Heave one aut to, which Super League would 10 History (1902 of veet 15 King not out 16 G Years not out 14 Kings not out 14 Kings not out 14 Kings not out 15 Kings not out 15 Kings not out 16 Kings not out 16 Kings not out 17 Kings not 17 Kings

> Middlesex v Hampshire LORD'S: Middlesex (8pts), with nine so include wickets standing, are 227 about of Hempshire (5). Middlesex won 1065

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

P N Weekes c Write b Ri I H Kalla not out M W Gatting not out E A-3. bet "M R Remoratach, J C Pooley, †K R nen, O A Shah, K P Ducch, R L Johnson, J P net, A R C Fasser. eding: Millouri 6-2-16-0; Renshaw 6-2-14-1; cherson 7-1-21-0; Udal 10-1-29-0; Keech Stephenson 1-2-2-3-0-7-0.
3-0-7-0.
Unspires: T E Jessy and J F Steele.

Northants v Worcestersbire NORTHAMPTON: With Norcestic-shire won loss RCESTERSHIRE - First landings 561 (W P Weston 205, D A Leatherdale 110, S J Ides 55; S A J Boswell 5-94). SHURE -- First Innings might: 208 for 3)

Southing Newport 14-5-43-0; Shenyar 18-1-77-0; Haynes 20-7-58-2; Lampit: 17-1-97-0; Moody 19-7-67-0; Leatherdale 16-5-29-3; We-ston 3-0-21-0.

Advas (R1, nb2) Total (for 5, 73 overs) Reft 1-9, 2-56, 3-78, 4-179, 5-218. A Shenyer.

Bonding: Boswelf 5-0-16-0; Blem 6-3-18-1;
Bondes 22-10-75-3; Balley 27-7-88-1; Curren
2-0-20-0; Foodham 1-0-1-0.

Umpires: B Leadbeater and G Sharp.

Somerset v Gloucesterskire TALNITON: Somerset (4pts), with eight first-innings wickets standing, are 163 rans-be-hind Generaturahire (4). Somerser won loss QLOUCESTERSHIPE - Fest broken

Under-19 Test Match Second day of four; 11.0 today England v Zimbabwe Zimbabwe won toss EDGBASTON: Zimbabwe, with five :

oy 9-1-20-V, Stevens 2-1-5-1, Nazon 2-0-4-0. LBICESTERSERREE "V Webs., D L. Maddy, 8 F Smith, D I Stevens N C Johnson, G I Mackallen, 17 A Nazon, G J Parsons, J Omnond, A R K Pier-son, A D Midsly. Umpirus: M J Kachen and N T Pleas

Fell (soeft: 4-87, 5-117, 6-129, 7-307, 8-347, 9-353, Bonding Silverwood 27-8-73-2; Humiton 26-8-95-4; Hutchison 23-2-5-84-4; Fisher 12-2-38-15-4; Hutchison 23.2-5-94-4; Pisher 12-2 C; Vaugian 17-4-63-0; Mornis 9-2-29-0. VORISSHEE - Second Invalige M D Mosco not out M P Vaugian not out Extras (M1, mb4) M P Vaugner no.

Extras (B1, nb1)

Total (Bo Q, 8 overs)

Total (Bo Q, 8 overs)

To bet: "O Byes, B Parker, A McGreth, 1C A Chepman, A C Morris, G M Familion, P M Hutchison, C E W Silvencood, I D Fisher.

Unspired: G I Burgess and J W Upyds.

SECOND XI CHAMSTONISHEP (fisal day of three): Lelcoster Lelcoster her 163 and 249.

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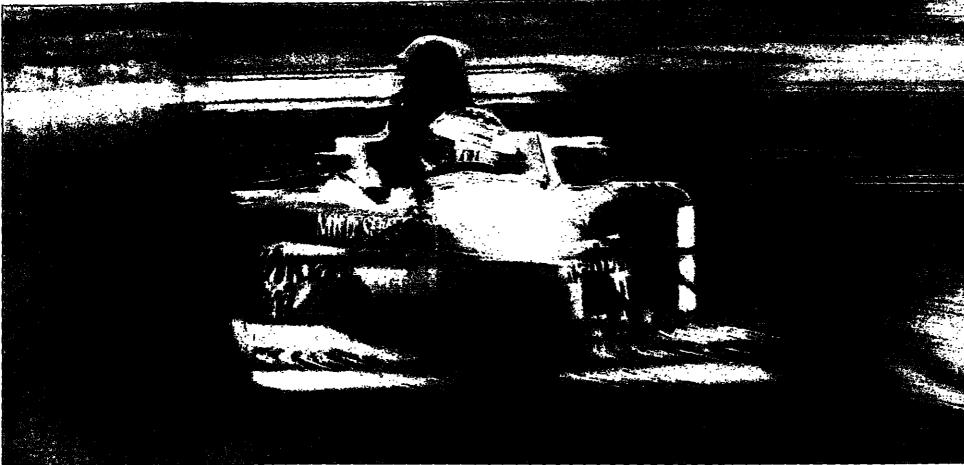
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July Mills

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4

ways been a target, now it is play up here.



Moving image: Jean Alesi takes his Benetton-Renault round the Hungaroring at high speed during practice yesterday

Coulthard confident of his position

Motor racing DERICK ALLSOP reports from Budapest

Championships and contracts are powerful incentives, or perhaps it was just coincidence. Either way. Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard backed up their causes with emphatic statements on the track here

Schumacher arrived for tomorrow's Hungarian Grand Prix with a 10-point lead in the championship and collected a new Ferrari chassis. Despite a late spin, he made good use of it, registering the fastest time in unofficial practice.

Second best was Coulthard, a timely performance to reinforce his prospects of staying with McLaren-Mercedes next season. Damon Hill is coveting one of the silver cars and the Scot is intent on ensuring it will

Schumacher dominated pro-

ceedings all day, apparently confirming the optimism he expressed a fortnight ago. The German, however, is a master at containing Italian euphoria and again urged caution in his camp and among his followers.

He said: "It is very much like last year for us here. We are quick on one lap, but I'm not so sure about a race distance. We have not done enough work yet to know. Schumacher had a more pos-

itive view on the contribution of Eddie Irvine, his team-mate for another season, in testing last week. "Eddie did a lot of work and did a good job," he said. Much the same can be said of Coulthard's labours yesterday. A season which began with a win and continued with a series of impressive drives lost a little momentum in the last two races and Hill's seemingly strengthening links with McLaren intensified the pressure on the Scot. Suddenly he, as well as Mika Hakki-

Coulthard responded in the most eloquent manner. He was only two-tenths of a second slower than Schumacher and, off the circuit also, he presented a strong case for another season's employment at McLaren.

"I don't feel I'm under threat. I think I have done a strong job for the team. I'm not saying Damon has had his day because Nigel Mansell and Alain Prost won titles in their late thirties.' Coulthard said. Damon is a quick driver, al-

though its difficult to gauge what his motivation has been this year. I don't know whether he would do a better job. It's a question of whether or not people see him as the future. I'm not a boxer, standing here saying I'm better than him and can do this and that. I have confidence in my ability and can do my talking on the track.

"I am comfortable with my performance. I am in only my third full season in Formula One and think I have a lot to offer.

I think I can still improve, I'm work well together. But Mika and Ferrari, is proving good for 26 and have another 10 years and I are both quick drivers and before I get to Damon's age. It's we've been getting as much out of the car as possible." impossible to say whether or not Damon will improve any more,

because maybe he can show he is a born again driver.
"I don't think there is any danger he will be given my place, but then I am looking through my eyes at my performance and bow I compare with him. McLaren-Mercedes may look at it differentiv, but I have shown I can win races and I am going to be

cheaper and younger."
Hill, his talks with Sauber having ended, boasted his own market value with fifth place in the Arrows Yamaha, so how about an all-British line-up at McLaren? Coulthard, who partnered

Hill at Williams-Renault in 1994 and 1995, said: "I don't see why there shouldn't be two Brits in the team. You have to go with the best drivers. I would be happy to be Damon Hill's team-mate again. I think we the resurgence of Schumacher

Hill was grounded for much of the afternoon session with a gearbox problem, but was instantly quick once released, taking advantage of tyres patently suited to the circuit. He finished just behind the Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Jacones Villeneuve, Schumacher's closest challenger, in the other Williams, was a distant 11th. Villeneuve and Williams are

in danger of losing more and perhaps even decisive ground to Schumacher and Ferrari here. The Canadian said: "Ferrari have obviously been doing something and it is working. It's annoying because it makes our life harder. But we are also working on a few things. We are confident. We must close the gap on Ferrari.

The competition between the two teams, and especially

business here. Ticket sales have been booming. All welcome news for the promoter, one Bernard Charles Ecclestone,

chauffeur-driven limousine was held up on a narrow access track by the volume of traffic. This year a new road conveys cardcarrying personnel to the circuit gate. It is called Bernie Avenue. gate. It is called Bernie Avenue.
Hunsahenn Grund Prix (Sunday) Practice times: 1 M Schumed'er (Sanfay) Practice times: 1 M Schumed'er (Sanfay) Practice times: 1 M Schumed'er (Sanfay): 20 Coulterin (GS) McLaren-Mercesse 117,810; 3 J Tubli (U) Prost-Magen-Honda 117,810; 4 H-H Frenten (Ger) Wilmens-Revault 117,810; 5 D H-M (GB) Artusch-Yemetre 118,161; 6 R Schumechen (Ger) Jordan-Prageot 118,555; 8 G Pecchelle (G) Jordan-Prageot 118,555; 8 G Pecchelle (G) Jordan-Prageot 118,555; 8 G Pecchelle (G) Ferrai 118,734;10 J Hospert (GB) Sauber-Petrores 118,734;10 J J Magneure (Der) Wilsams-Petrores 118,656; 12 J Magneures (Der) Wilsams-Petrores 118,656; 13 G Berger (Mai) Berenthor-Ferrault 118,656; 13 G Berger (Mai) Berenthor-Ferrault 118,656; 13 J Versieppen (Mai) Jordal-Pot

Formula One's impresario. His influence here appears to know no bounds. He vented his displeasure last year, when his

Italians may * have the Fastnet edge

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Cowes

through the Solent yesterday, with a racing breeze and some sunshine finally greeting Cowes Week Accordingly, the Admiral's Cup teams completed their final preparations ahead of today's finale, the Fastnet Race. In Lymington, Southampton, Hamble, and even Plymouth, the nine Whithread 60s appeared ready for the task at hand. A handful of maxis, including Morning Glory, Hasso Plattner's Sydney-to-Hobart recordbreaker, were hoping the forecasters had got it wrong and there would be stiff breezes for the 605-mile journey around the

The fresh air of purpose blew

rock off the south-west coast of Ireland and back to Plymouth. More than 250 yachts have entered, including 200 club-class racers and a dozen multihulls which are competing for the first time. The multi-hulls, featuring some of France's top boats, will sail a longer course.

With light airs forecast, the only word of caution - competitors are ever-alert after the trag-ic deaths in the storms of 1979 -was that a rogue low-pressure system could sweep in on Monday or Tuesday. That would provide enough punch for a fast, downwind ride home and play into the hands of the Italians whose challenge for honours is led by their big boat Madina.

The Fastnet has always proved the deciding race in the Admiral's Cup, and last time. in 1995, the Americans went in with a seemingly secure 25-point lead, only to see the Italians exploit some light air conditions and grab the cup by the slender margin of a quarter of a point.

This year the Italians are lying fourth, 23 points behind the Americans. As the Fastnet counts for quadruple points, they have to make up six places. an average of two in each of the three divisions. With major tactical decisions to be made in the

early stages - such as whether to go out to sea, avoiding the Portland tidal gate, or to stay in, where they can at least anchor if there is no wind overnight there are opportunities for major gains as well as big losses. The second-placed New

Zealanders, just 16 points - or four places on Fastnet scoring behind the Americans, know what is required, and their America's Cup-winning skipper Russell Courts, on board their big boat Numbers, is the right man for the pressure occasion. Germany, in third place, have been known to spring the odd surprise and cannot be written off.

The British, too, although languishing in sixth place of the seven three-boat teams, will be happy with a test of skill in light air. It will suit their two bigger boats, Graham Walker's 45-foot Corum Indulgence and Tony Buckingham's 40-foot Easy Oars

Tim Barratt's Mumm 36 Bradamante, in the hands of the Olympic silver medallists John Merricks and Ian Walker, races on equal terms with all the other Mumms and is capable of footing it with the best boats.

Cowes Week finally provided perfect conditions for the Xboats yesterday after they had had only one race in six days. The course-seriers waited an extra couple of hours so that the 900 yachts could start in a settled breeze.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of days between Sheryi Swoopes, of basketball's Houston Comets, giving birth and playing in the WNBA. Swoopes, who turned out on Thursday for the victory over Phoenix Mercury, last played in the 1996 Olympic final.

US yearling sale ends on a positive note

Fasig Tipton's three-day Sarato- per cent to \$183,384 compared ga Yearling Sales ended on a to last year, with the median rispositive note with the overall average attaining its highest level since 1990. There was also a Corey Nakatani, suspend news sales topper to contend when Demi O'Byrne went to

\$1.4 million to buy a Gulch colt. The son of Gulch, purchased on behalf of John Magnier and formers, A P Indy and Summer Squall. O'Byrne said: "It is the bation for one year. same cross as the Kentucky I thought I might have to go to

ing a healthy 15.4 per cent

Corey Nakatani, suspended a month for elbowing an apwith. Tuesday's record crumbled prentice out of the saddle after a race at Del Mar last Sunday, has decided not to appeal. Nakatani will be sidelined from 11 August to 10 September. He Michael Tabor, is closely relat- will be required to attend a ed to top-class American per- course in anger management and his licence will be on pro-

The Grade One 1998 Flori-Derby winner Thunder Gulch. da Derby has received a \$250,000 cash injection. The a million dollars, but never this Florida Derby, due to be run on 14 March next year, will carry The average price rose 13.5 a total purse of \$750,000.

REDCAR

HYPERION 2.10 Albarir 2.40 Chinaider 3.10 Epic Stand 3.40 Durgams First 4.15 Sig And Dance 4.45 Renny-

GOING: Good to Firm (watered). STALLS: Straight - stands side; (m Gf & 2m - centre; rest - in-DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 1m DEAN EDVENT SENS: High from 5 has been all estaight course.

■ Course is off A1086 (signposted from A66). Redear station (Darlington - Sathurn line) 300yd, ADMISSION: (Club S13; Paddock S8 (CAPS S3.50); Course 52.50 (CAPS S1.25). CAR PARK: Free. BLINEERRD FIRST TIME: Mountgate (3.10), Lord Discord (visor, 4.15), insperial Line (4.46), Paldoct (4.45), Fishaster (visor, 4.45). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Elver Rosige (4.45) won at Thirst Cathering Caps.

on Saturday. LANG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Albarit (2-10) has been sent 310 miles by J Daniop from Arundel, W. Susser; Sooty Term (3.10) sent 257 miles by J M Bradley from Sedbury, Gwent.

2.10 ESF SINNINGTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS

	U) ZA,330 added 210 islas 11
3	ALHARIR (USA) (22) / Dunlop 8 11
	ARCINC AIR E Vileymes 8 11 O Pears 1
006	DOUGS DREAM (24) Mrs A Swinbank 8 11 W.J. O'Comparé
Đ	LADYOFDISTRICTION (14) J Visimings 8 11 Williams 4
53	RENHARDIA (5) P Sens 8 11 F Eggs. 5
	SCENT OF SUCCESS (USA) M Strute 8 11
n	TRYS COSTS DEEDE (AM T.) Ramon 8.11 1. Channock 9

-9 declared SETTING: 6-4 Alberis, 11-4 Scent Of Success, 7-1 Remarks, 8-1 Taylor's
Pride, 10-1 Arctic Ad, 12-1 Tigl, 14-1 Ladyoldistinction, 20-1 Doog's Dream,
33-1 Thandering Papages

10 000005 MINISTON (36) (0) 1 Benefit 4 7 12 ______R bladen (5) 10
-10 declared BETTING: 5-2 Epic Stand, 9-2 Sooty Tera, 6-1 Best Of All, 7-1 Gymcnek
Promiers, Gulfrer, 8-1 Montagete, Thanset, 10-1 Ministon, 18-1 Disput Som,
20-1 Selfan

13 CHINADER (30) / 10 Net 811 -__K Dentoy 10 __1 Feeding 2 __0 Posse 11 ____ L Charmock 1 B ___ R Wieston (7) S C4660 SEVENTH REAVEN (S) D No COCCOCK SHAPPY TIMES (14) M Dods 8 11 £ F Egge الــ - 11 declared

BETTING: 9-4 Erro Codigo, 4-1 Chimider, 8-1 David Petrol, 8-1 Circultner, Stappy Times, 19-1 fm Tee, Seventh Heaven, 12-1 Mouslight Fift, 14-1 Robert The Brice, 18-1 Juli Pille, 20-1 Ledy Rochelle

3.10 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES (HANDICAP) (CLASS D) £8,000 added 1m

3.40 MARY REVELEY RACING CLUB CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 6f 104522 DURGNUS FIRST (10) (D) (B) Ms M Reveloy 598_A Culture 4

00200 FOX SPARROW (24) N Tinker 7 9 4 _______ X Danley 8 B -00050 FINESTATETOBEN (15) F Watson 4 9 1 ______ JF Egin 2 FOOC. CHANCOOK (225) LI Evo 4 8 12

4.15 VAUX CRU RED CROSS MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 2f

630050 FOREST ROBEN (12) (BP) Mrs J Ramaden 4 9 3... Claim West (7) 5 G-0500 DULAS BAY (B1) M W Easterby 382. 364356 SING AND DANCE (15) E We

4.45 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f 400000 FOIST (15) (D) M W Easterby 5 9 11....... 100000 HALMANESPROR (28) (C) (D) Mrs. J Ramaden 7 9 10... A Culture 21 10000 HELENTSTEIN (29 M) WHO I THE SECTION OF THE S

53-000 MISS ARMGON (9) (D) Miss L Sottel 9 7 13. T Stidel (7) 9 000 MRPERIAL LINE (15) A Micholand 3 7 12 . A Nichola (7) 11 B -00040 MICHAI ZANDO (7) J Beiling 4 7 10. . . Franke (7) 22

- 24 declared - Mariam weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weights: Mariam Zenno 7st 8th, M

Arit: 7s ism.
BETTRIS: 5-1 Grand Chepoen, 6-1 Helenmorror, 7-1 Cambouncur, 8-1 Bollin Dorotty, 10-1 Shythensons Rocket, Frint, 1 A Touch, 12-1 Herrily, Pislostar, Hapoleon Star, 14-1 Paktoet, Reanyholme, River Essign, 20-1 citaers

-01244 DON PEPE (12) (0) (BF) R Boss 6 9 9...

601600 BAYIN (USA) (8) (0) M (Isher 8 9 7 _ -60140 THIRD PARTY (44) (D) S Dow 3 9 8...

RACING RESULTS MARKET RASEN

2.10: 1, D'NAAN (A P McCo) 4-6 fav; 2. John Tuffy 5-1; 3. Hever Golf Diamond 7-1.9 ran. 1½, 3. (M Pipe). Tote: £1.70; £1.10. £1.50, £2.10. Dual Forecast: £3.50. Computer Synglet Forecast: £4.61. Troc: £9.90. Whener bought in for 3,000 guineas. 2.40; 1. RAGIAN ROAD (R Johnson) 11-2. Ten Valenthia 14.1: 3. Sentéria Sav. 4; 2. Jim Valentine 14-1; 3. Sant

E26.20. 3.10: 1. GENERAL MOUKTAR (A P Mc-Coy 1.3-8 fav; 2. Moobalder 9-2; 3. Derring Bridge 5-2. 4 rata, neck, 8. (M Pipe), Totac £2.40. Dual Forecast: £4.50. Computer

AO. DUST FORECAST: £2.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £7.83.
 40: 1. TRAP DANCER (A Dobbrit 5-2 fax: 2. Surpleas Strains 6-1; 3. Isanocent George 9-2. 6 rain. 1, 2%. IP Montacit). Total £2.20: £1.60, £2.40. DF: £10.80. CSP: £16.13. Only

4.15: 1 EUPHORIC ILLUSION (Richard Quest) 15-8 Jt fav; 2 Movie Man 8-1; 3. Ba-kino (Nas 5-2 6 ran, 15-8 Jt fav Saan Min-strel (4th), 30, 12, 04s 5 Smith), Totas; £2.50; £1.60, £2.50, DF; £12.60, CSF; £15.94, NR;

Skiney Street.
4.45: 1. KRE MON (M A Fitzgeraki) 16-1: 4.45: I. Botte state of A Flaggard 15-1: 2. Theme Avests 15-8 far, 3. Lagan 5-1. 11 tan. 3%, 1%, 0M Bidbyl. Total £19.80; £3.00, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £17.50. CSF: £45.18, Theast: £169.03. Tot: £36.80. Placepot: £137.00. Quadpot: £8.20. Place 6: £61.48, Place 5: £49.39.

SALISBURY

2.00: 1. DESERT BEAUTY (PA Eddary) 10-11 fav. 2. VERATER 7-1; 3. Sonny Isle 16-1. 10 nen. 4; 24. (M. Stoute, Nowmarket). Toke: £2.10; £1.10, £1.50, £5.30. 0F: £5.10. CF: £7.95. Tho: £55.50. 2.30: 1. RUNDING FREE (D. Hofend) 9-2. 2. Palseemon 5-1; 3. Come Together 7-4 fav. 7 nen. 1%, str.ht. (M. Fetherston-Godley, East Bisley). Tohe: £3.80; £1.60, £2.10. 0F: con. 60. CSF. £73.56.



3.00: 1, ATLANTIC DESIRE (I) Holland) 5 2 fav; 2. Repler 6-1; 3. Flamboyance 4-1 5 ras. 1, 1%. (M Johnston, Middeham). Tota £3.00; £1.50, £2.10, DF; £14.50, CSF;

3.30: 1. MBRRZ (A Clark) 8-1: 2. Yelta 11-2: 3. Al Massoor 8-1. 12 ran. 7-4 tev Duello (4th). 5, 1/4. (R Alerhust, Epsons). Totar 511.80: £3.00, £2.60, £1.70. Duel Forecas: £41,40, CSF; £46,90, Tricast; £345,49, Tro: £92.20. 4.05: 1. SUPREME THOUGHT (M Fert)

7-1; 2. Celamine 20-1; 3. Sylvan Dance 7-1, 10 ran. 11-4 fav Stap On Degas (5th) 2, shr-hd. (L G Cottrell, Cullampton). Total £7.80; £2.00, £5.20, £2.00. DF: £57.70. £261,90. 4,35: 1. RING THE CHIEF (G Harron) 10-

4.35: 1. legres The Carlier to Farron 10-3; 2. poligat of Dawn 5-2 by 3. River Selve 5-1. 8 ram. hd. 4. (M Usher, East Garston). Tota: E3.70; £1.20, £1.20, £2.20. Dusi Fore-cast: £3.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £10.66. Tricast: £35.53. Jackpot: £20,360.40 (pert won, £25,808.99 repot: £172.80. Quadpot: £64.90 ree 6: £190.73. Place 8: £125.25.

WOLVERHAMPTON 2.20; 1. CLERMONT CITY (D Hamson) 14-2. Grainsano 10-1; 8. Ceitic Comfort 5-

1: ∠ Gratmano 10-1: 3. Celtic Comfort 5-1. 10 ran. 4-6 tav Tighrope (4th). 1½, nk. 10 Chapple-hyam, Marton), Tota: £28.20; £4.70, £1.90, £2.00. Dual Forecast: £91.70. CSF: £129.90. Tricast: £755.50. Trics £156.70.

2.50: 1. ALL IN LEATHER (F Lynch) 4-1; 2. Romand Chemitry 1-2 fay; 3. Counting 16-1. 9 cm. 11, 3. (W Hoggs, Newmarked). Rober 6A.70; 61.40; 61.10, 62.30. DF; 61.90, CSP. £5,67, Trio: £40.80. 3.20: 1. NOR-DO-I U Tate) 6-1: 2. Absolute Liberty 9-2: 3, See Ya Maibe 8-1. 11 ran. 100-30 fav Canodian Cartasy, 5, %, U Eustace, Newmarket), Todas: £12.80; £5.80, £3.10, £4.30, Dual Forecast £68.40. CSF: £33.26, Tricast: £213.16. Tota Trica

270.30.

3.50:1. VELAGE NATIVE (I) Hartsort 20.

1.2. Aliaz 8-1: 3. Time to Fty 7-4 fav. 13.

13. 3. 4. (KCunningtan-Brown, Scotintiage).

13. 140. DF. 20. 6.4.0, £1.50. £1.40. DF.

270.10. CSF: £187.81. Titest: £41.35. Tite:

£178.80.

4.25: 1. FEATHERSTONE LANE (M.

Wigtern) 5-1: 2. Manjorte Rose 4-6 fav; 3.

Teles Ticker Tening 40.1.9 fat. 1/4, fz. (MsS.

1. Sidded, Tedesster). Tote: £6.40: £1.80.

£1.10. £3.70. Dust Forecast: £3.90. CSF:

\$5.54. Tite: £34.80. There was no bit for the

£8.54. Trio: £34.80. There was no bic for the wither.
4.55: 1. CERTAIN MAGIC (P Doe) 10-1:
2. Straffun Gold 6-1; 3. Danicing Quoch 31. 6 ras, 5-4 fav Alagna (Git), sht-hd, 15.
(W Mast, Lambourni, Tone: £12.30; £4.90. £3.50, DF: £17.50, CSF: £61.08. Placepot: £348.70. Quadpot: £73.30. Place 6; £206.76. Place 6; £63.13.

0	SCENT OF TAYLOR'S	SUCCESS (PRIDE (60)	USAL M Sto T D Barron	ute & 11 8 11	 Day 7 rock 9
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5.50 Harlequin Walk 6.20 Salamanca 6.50 Dashing Invader 7.20 Pinup 7.50 Double Matt 8.20 GOING: Turf - Good to Soft (45mm of rain in 12hrs); AW - Stan-STALLS: Turf - stands side: AW - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Turt, - high 5f to 77 140yds; AW - Low

HYPERION

Left-band, sharp undulating course.

Left-band, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) udjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 513, Family Enclosure 59. CAR PARE: Cub 53; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME. Riscatto (5.50), Shellas Dresso (5.50), Chilaspeany (visor, 7.20), Englass (8.20).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATE: Hangawood (8.20) won at Fullstatus on Theodog: Master Aspecto (6.50) won at Linglisid last Saturday, Guld Edge (7.50) won at Cheptow on Sunday; Silk St. John (8.20)

way at Newper (1-50) was a Carpenter of the Control of the Control

5.50 (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 2f 02000 PENCARE (27) (20) M Madgach 8 10 0 P Dos (7) 3 124120 ARZANI (154) (15) (20) 0 Cosgone 6 9 6 Mill Ringson 2

HYPERION 6.05 Master Showman 6.35 Yubralee 7.05 Cas-

tie Secret 735 Hurricane Blake 8,05 Distant Storm

COING: Good to First (watered).

Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy name and a one

furlong run-in.

Course is on the A443 by the River Severn, Worrester (Fore-gale St) station 1m. ADMOSSION: Members £ 12.50; Tatternalls £9.50; Course £5 (OAPs £3.50). CAR PARK: Free; plente area.

parting 52.60. BLINEERED PIEST TIME: Crocknamobili (8.05), Distant Storm (visor, 8.06), Powerful Spirit (8.35). WINNEES IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Tehralce (6.35) won at Newson

Abbot on Standay.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNRES: Lieb Dombalon (6.05) sent 172 miles
by A Hobba from Bendhutt, Devon: Inchydoney Boy (6.05) sent 187
miles by T McGovern from Lewes, B. Susser.

6.05 POLLY GARTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G)

40-R10 CHODY'S PRIST (R) (D) S Metor 5 11 10 ______ T J Marphy F30-03 COLMEN PRINCE (R) (CD) A P Jones 9 11 1 _____ A P McCay 221F-6 GREEN'S SEMAD (R) (D) (NF) H Kawangin 9 10 13 ___ B Powell

8.35 Young Dalemsman

6.20 LOMBARD GOLDEN SPRINT STAKES (CLASS C) £6,900 added 2YO 5f - 5 declared --BETTING: 8-11 Chieftain, 5-2 Salemance, 100-30 Handawood, 16-1 Days

6.50 GUARDWORTH HANDIGAP SKY

- 9 declared um weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Galloping Guits 9st 13th, Man-

11-4 Columy Prince, 4-1 Green's Seeth, 5-1 Cathly's First, 6-1 te, Matt Commission, Minester Shometers, 16-1 Inchysionary Boy, 25-1

6.35 WORCESTER ROWING CLUB SKY

BETTERIC 2-5 Yearning, 2-1 No Light, 14-1 Rethord, 38-1 Mistress Todor

7.05 ADAM BROWN BIRTHDAY SKY

(CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m

୬ 🗪 0 ●

0-0645 MLY WOO (12) B Peace 3 7 10. BETTIME 5-2 Dusting Insuder, 3-1 Paradise Navy, 4-1 Mister Aspecto. 11-2 Nz, 7-1 Scolessi, 8-1 Bodonie Prince, 10-1 Normax Lad, 12-1 Willie m, 16 May Wood 7.20 EBF LADY MARGARET NOVICE SKY

(CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO fillies 6f 3 FARROUND PRINCESS (28) R Holinshead 8 8... Paul Eddery 4
0 GROSVISION MESS (28) R Holinshead 8 8... Paul Eddery 4
0 GROSVISION MESS (28) P Chapple-Hjern 8 8... R Havilla (3) 1.
0 HAUNT THE ZOO (16) I I Harra 8 8... B Doyle 3
1.0 ITLE TOLERANCE J Cultiman 8 8... J Quirm 10
0 PRUNP (28) G Levis 8 8... T Sprance 2
00 RENGAROUND (11) S DOW 88 ... Martin Dwyer (3) 7 — 1D doctored — BETTMC: 7-4 Phoen Mex. 7-2 Chilopenny, 4-1 Blushing Victoria, 9-2 Ambitions, 8-1 Fernico Princess, 9-1 Gropvenur Mex. 12-1 Pinup, 20-1 oth-

7.50 MALAYA GATWICK HANDICAP SKY

300354 DENBRAE (S) (D) D Muray Smith 5 9 10 ____C Lowbiner (S) 4 600504 MRSTER OF PASSION (LA) (CD) J Exister 8 9 10 ___ D Sweeney (S) ? 7.35 RICHARD AND CHERRILYN WEDDING DAY HANDICAP CHASE SKEE

022.51 SILK ST JURIN (1) M Spot 38 23 _______ T Spoule 16 8 6 05322 MHAFANO (577 (BP) W R Hem 38 21 ______ T Spoule 16 8 6 05331 CARRESEAN STAR (15) (0) M Stoute 28 10 _____ Merris 19 102330 MORY DAWN (SI K Nov) 38 10 _____ Merris 19 1090 (S) (4) 0 AVUSHT DREAMS (14) C Oper 38 8 _____ A Morris 24 130-00 SBEPLE LOSIC (SO) A Flotter 2 8 8 _____ S MERITAND 1 92 Marian - 10 declared - - 20 Marian - 10 declared - - 20 Marian shi Sai 4th. Crimy Lad Suf 4th. BETTIME: 15-8 Red Reck, 4-1 Lemp in The Dark; 9-2 Red Light, 13-2 Dis-tant Storm, 8-1 Biotant Outborst, 10-1 Crockmanohill 12-1 Chilly Lest, 28-1

(CLASS D) £4,900 added 7f

- 4 declared -BETTHG: 10-11 Harricane Blake, 3-1 Maggata Green, 4-1 Vicosa, 6-1 Har-8.05 ARROW DISTRIBUTORS NOVICE SKY

£2,925 added 2m 4f

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8.35 TRICITY BENDIX NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m BETTING: 9-4 Beacon Lane, 7-2 Young Dalessum, 9-2 Fully (Plants, 25-1 Indian Nectar, 29-1 Powerful Spirit, Return 26 Brighton, 25-1 Others

(CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 7f 110yds

Tomba was beaten only a length at Monich last week end and Brian Mechan gives him a quick German respectance today at Hoppegarten. Michael Tebbut's mount is one of two British runners in the Listed Erdgas Hoppegarten and a half furiongs, along with Brian Gubby along Dollar (Bony Clark).

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FIRST

36244 COUD EDEC (6) QO M Chanton 3 6 1 ______ 8 Doyle 6 600020 CRISTAL HEIGHTS (6) DI (6) R USUkum 9 9 0 __ Santies 11 105306 SZZIJNS (12) (D) R Hannon 5 8 12 _____ Martin Dwyer (3) 5

8.20 COURIER NEWSPAPERS 125TH SELVEN

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 1997

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Section 1

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Property ...

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Art.

lians may Parisian Lady a high flier There is little point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports A sprinter trained on a mountain top can reach a hat-trick of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports There is little point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports There is little point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports There is little point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports There is little point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports There is little point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will of victories at Newmarket today. Greg Wood reports The puniters that the point denying that the athletes on the minds of many puniters this afternoon will be at the puniters that the p

have acknowledged with two relatively low-key televised meetings, but for one small trainer from north Devon, it could be the most rewarding day

of his short career. Tony Newcombe will saddle Parisian Lady in the Sweet Solera Stakes at Newmarket, and victory for the filly who cost him just 2,000 guineas as a yearling ould be a priceless advertisement for his 30-horse yard near

If Newmarket is the headquarters of Flat racing, then Barnstaple is about as out-ofthe-way as it is possible to get, and the nearest Flat track to Newcombe's yard is 130 miles distant, but he would not have it any other way. "People keep telling me I should move if I want to progress in the racing world," he said yesterday, "but I tell them that if I did that, I'd be giving away my No 1

That vital advantage is the ability to train his horses at al-

ZEDPARDSTOWN - Sunday

3.20 HEINZ 57 PHOENIX STAKES (Group 1) £150,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £86,000

PRIX MAURICE DE GHEEST (Group 1) 6f 110yds (straight)

BETTINE: 3-1 Harbour Moster, Ashurah, 11-2 Hopping Higgins, 7-1 Attractive Crown, Flame Visit, 8-1 Poel Music, Despress, 10-1 others 1998: Marapean 2 9 0 C Escard 20-1 (J Bolger) drawn (9) 9 ran

FIRST SHOW

Newmarket 4.10

Connaic Prince 6-1 5-1 5-1 5-1

Regal Mark 7-1 11-2 5-1 11-2

<u>Naster Bools</u> 8-1 8-1 9-1 8-1

Double Bossos 11.1 12-1 12-1 12-1

Elen Figur 14-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

Pleasing 20.1 16-1 16-1 20-1

Steins And Woodless 20-1 22-1 20-1 20-1

Poleur School 20-1 22-1 25-1 33-1

Each way a quarer the colds, places 1, 2, 3, 4

Neavest

C H 1_T

<u>13-2 7-1 7-1 7-1</u>

<u>101 111 101 101</u>

141 161 161 161

161 201 201 201

39.1 33.4 23.1 33.1

<u>331 251 251 251</u>

12-1 14-1 18-1 14-1

- S CRIMENT .

- STRING: 13-8 Monument & Knihai (coupled), 9-4 Titus Unius, 4-1 Nombre Prepandiste, 13-2 Deadly Dudley, 14-1 Warderd, 33-1 Wilgring Smile

7.2

92 11-2 11-2

74 74 74

7-1 6-1 7-1

91 7-1 8-1

121 121 **141**

<u> 181 121 161</u> 141 201 161

Penalty value £56,117

Haydock - 245

Basel On The Run 9-1 9-1 8-1 8-1

Omina Const 11-1 12-1 12-1

Each way a filth the colds, places 1, 2, 3

H - William Hill, L - Lachsoles, T - Tote

Haydock - 3.50

Hamistolistics 11-2 6-1 5-1 9-2

Moon Strike 11-2 8-1 5-1 11-2

Contlet Avenue 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1

Resident Bay 9-1 11-1 12-1 10-1 Index 14.1 14.1 14.1 14.1

That Ham Again 14-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 141 **BI BI BI** <u> 161 161 161 161</u>

Land Di Verzeno 16-1 14-1 14-1 12-1

MANAGE Brape 201 181 141 201

Swalped Denom 18-1 16-1 18-1 20-1

Carda Brokes 251 201 251 251

Lond High Adminal 20-1 14-1 20-1 25-1 331 331 331 331 331

121 81 121 101

201 201 201 161

251 251 201 251

Over To You

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Moving Amou

Share Deligial

among human athletes but one neglected for thoroughbreds, no doubt because the top of a means that there's a lot of oxymountain is not an ideal location for a racing yard. "We're 900 feet above sea lev-

el," Newcombe says, "but we also get a warm breeze from the Parisian Lady's game, however. Gulf Stream, and we seem to have got an oasis which pro-

horses. They have a very high level of haemoglobin, which gen in their blood, and we've

ing horses because of it." Staying was never going to be A daughter of the sprinter Paris House, she also has Group-win-

done particularly well with stay-

when she repaid her purchase price with victory in a Salisbury which makes it all the more surmaiden at 33-1, breaking the prising that she could have track record in the process. "Next time up." her trainer

ed after just 71 seconds of Parisian Lady's racing career,

says, "she hammered four good

horses by nine lengths. The

firm ground at Newmarket will

suit her. She's got a big chance."

will be a difficult opponent, but

PARISIAN LADY (nap 3.35)

has impressed on the clock in

both her starts, and the first day

of the football season would be

an appropriate moment for her

Handicaps form the remain-

der of the televised card at head-

quarters, where Cosmic Prince

(4.10) and Farmost (4.40) hold

strong chances, and two-thirds

of the action from Haydock.

Among the favourites for the

five-furlong Coral Handicap

will be Blessingindisguise, whose trainer, Mick Easterby,

was fined £2,500 by the Jockey

Club earlier this week in con-

nection with a non-trier of-

fence, a financial setback which

would be all but erased by suc-

cess for his runner today. An-

to complete her hat-trick.

The locally-trained Eloquent

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been bought so cheaply.

"She was a bit leggy," Newcombe recalls, "and people
didn't really take a shine to ber, but there was nothing wrong with her and with that sort of

Holland wins a Free-for-all

Darryll Holland is now just two off his career-best season score of 71 winners, which he notched in 1995, after scoring an 18-1 double aboard Running Free and Atlantic Desire at

Salisbury yesterday. Atlantic Desire, having her third outing in eight days after finishing third at Goodwood last Friday and winning at Ripon on Monday was quickly sent out in front by Holland in the Cheviot Limited Stakes before pulling out all the stops in the closing stages to hold off the challenge

"She's had three quick races but she's as game as a pebble," said trainer Mark Johnston's representative Bill Brown. Martin Fetherston-Godley

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Cosmic Prince (Newmarket 4.10) **NB: Sandicliffe** (Newmarket 3.05)

had almost given up with Running Free but the gelding has now netted two wins in the past

HAYDOCK

2.45: Kala Sunrise is inconsistent but

has been taking on higher class than

esting outsider. Another is SHARE. DELIGHT, who has yet to recapture

the form he showed when winning decisively over 7f at Doncaster back

in March. He has had his tempera-

ment questioned, but this colt is now

looking better handicapped and

head in his chest a year ago. A re-production of that effort would see

him home here, but he has been off the track since finishing last of six in May at Longchamp (Group One).

His colours may be lowered by the year-younger GERMANO, from a

stable that is returning to top form.

nayaz won this mee with his

this track should suit him.

"He had been really disappointing but he seems to thrive on racing and that may be was what he needed," commented the East Ilsley trainer.

Handicap king Reg Akehurst admitted even he was surprised after Mihriz had turned the Knights and Company Handicap into a one-horse show under Tony Clark, scoring by five lengths from Yalta. Mihriz had run well on his

seasonal bow on the Wiltshire course in May but was a dismal flop on his next outing at York last month.

other runner who comes into **HYPERION'S**

3.50: There would appear to be no particular advantage in the draw. A ferocious gallop seems certain from the start with plenty of early-paced contenders. Royal Dome came with a late rattle to win 12 months ago and similar tactics could see this fiveyear-old go close to a repeat. The top weight, CROWDED AVENUE, is not well handicapped but is best when making a late challenge off a strong pace. This contest looks

3.65: SANDICLIFFE, who encountered trouble in running and actu-ally performed a great deal better than her final finishing position would suggest when three lengths fifth to Wishing Stone over a mile at Windsor last time, is worth another chance on what looks a lenient handicap mark. Chalky Dancer may pose most problems.

3.35: ELOQUENT, a highly creditable short-head second to Woodland Melody in the Listed Milcars Star Stakes over seven furiones at and should prove hard to beat. Silent Tribute's trainer feels his filly will benefit from a strongly-run race and, if they go a decent pace, she may prove the biggest danger.

not handle the bend that well after setting a strong gallop in the Hong Kong Jockey Chib Trophy handicap over a mile at Sandown last time, would probably have gone close in the Golden Mile Handicap at Good wood last time had he taken his chance - he burst out of the start-ing stalls, forcing a false start, and was withdrawn. Master Boots is the

Mick Easterby: heavy fine

the race after three wins on the

trot may frustrate him, howev-

er, since Fairy Prince (next

best 3.50) has crept in on a very

is the Group Three Rose of Lancaster Stakes, which should

be a straightforward assignment

for Germans (3.15). Geoff

Wragg's colt was beaten a neck in a Listed event at Newbury last

time out, a solid peformance

which gives him every chance in

what appears to be a field con-

sisting mainly of horses in var-

ious stages of decline. In the

earlier handicap, meanwhile,

Tertium (2.45) can break a los-

ing streak which has much more

to do with misfortune than any

lack of ability on his part.

The feature race at Haydock

amractive mark.

4.40: HAJR, poorly drawn when fir ishing about six lengths 11th to No Extras over a mile at Goodwood last time, is an unknown quantity over this afternoon's distance of 1m 2 but, if he stays the trip, he should go well off what looks a potentially lenient mark. Orsay may prove the



HAYDOCK

2.15 D'Marti 2.45 Share Delight 3.15 Germano (nb)

3.50 Crowded Avenue 4.20 CHOCOLATE (nap)

GOING; Good to Firm.
STALLS; Im - triside; ImCf - centre; remainder - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low from 753 Oyds to 1m-1 Oyds.

■ Left-hand course.

Course is near junction of A580 and M6. Newton station 2m, ADMISSION: County Stand 5 17, Tattersalis 5.10; Newton Stand 5 6 (OAPs half-price in Tattersalis and Newton Stand). CAR PARE: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: J Dunlop — 24 winners from 105 runners gives a success ratio of 22.9% and a loss to a 51 kerel stake of 57.17; J Gooden — 19 winners, 56 runners, 19.8%, \$2.20.8%; J Berry — 18 winners, 170 runners, 10.1%, \$43.17; B Hills — 16 winners, 74 runners, 21.6%, \$5.55.

LEADING JOCKETS: W Ryan — 25 winners from 100 runners gives a success ratio of 28.0% and a profit to a 51 kevel stake of 516.07; Pat Eddery — 24 winners, 75 rides, \$2.0% and a profit to a 51 kevel stake of 516.07; Pat Eddery — 24 winners, 75 rides, 12.0%, 4538.66; L Dector — 20 winners, 118 rides, 10.9%, \$50.01; K Durley — 30 winners, 167 rides, 12.0%. \$20.77.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Tunnya (visor, 3.15), Crystal Hills (4.60).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Name LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Sandstone (3.) se (3.15) and Chocolate (4.30) have been sent

2.15 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN ALICTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,014 00 DANICING ICON (21), C.C. Smith) R Harmon B.7 ...

ETTING: 5-2 Dillarti, 7-2 Italian Rose, 9-2 Dancing Icos, 11-2 Premium Princens, 6-1 Relate, 10-1 Rare Indigo, 14-1 Cool Mystery 1996: Snap Cracide 2 8 3 Paul Eddery 100-30 (R Johnson Houghton) drawn (6) 9 sad

2.45 HARVEY JONES RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) PROCE

10 022013 QUEENS CONSUL (2) (0) OMES HESSING 1 CONSUL (2) OMES HESSING 1 CONSULT (2) OMES HESSING 1 CONSULT

BRISH ACCORD is a cold who has been promising to win a decent handcap and he ran well are Goodwood last zime when beasen only four lengths in term behind By To The Stars. Previously fifth to his gambled-on stablismene Stackattack at York, insh Accord has his big chance today. Over To You has a line chance on his best form and was badly drawn in the hot Newmentet ace won by Memorise last time. Band on The Run loves this course, has been behind the progressive to Met on recent starts, and showed his old form when beating Bollin Frank here in June, hish Accord, a length behind in fourth them, may just have progressed enough to reverse the form with the 2th pull. Sharp Shoffle, fifth to Tribal Peace at Goodwood when humming 10st, may just be beaten by the high draw-the unforky outside stall going to Mioving Arrow, who won this two years ago off a 5th higher mark. Moving Arrow could still play a leading role because he gets a steasible weight pull with Band On The Run and insh Accord on running here in June. Zoom Up, fifthy-raced and second to the smark Stallent at Newmenter last time, is sure to go well from a good draw. Share Delight, with arto men accord on running here in June. Zoom Up, fightly-raced and second to the smart Suitest as Newmenter less time, is sure to go well from a good draw. Share Delight, with Paul Fetsey taking off 3th, has a similar chance to Over To You on York running behind Out Of Sight, Mala Saurine has faced impossible tasks of late and his previous good handicap showings were on unsuitable ground. He beat Hai's Pal in a decent handicap at York laterm so can easily be considered for this Tertham, Q Factor and Queens Coussel are not good enough.

3		PETROS ROSE OF LANCASTER STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £32,000 added 1m 2f 120yds Penalty Value £20,920
1	66-216	TRANSPIZ (CANG (76) (CD) (Cooldplant Seeed bin Surcer 5 9 7
2	0.2112	GERMANO (21) (Beron G von Ultrains) G Waste 4 9 3
3	0.3640	NEY TO MY HEART (28) (C) (D) (Ms M Pictering Mess S Hall 7 9 3
4	051005	PRINCE OF MY HEART (11) (6) I Holes B Hale 4 9 3
5		FAHRUS (19) (19) (Hamdan Al Malagum) B Hardun 3 8 7
6		BOMANOV (25) (C) (R E Sangson P Charole-Hern 3 8 7

cau his previous with from recours cau'r troods showed man be as good as even. The meanow, staying on in third to Benny The Dip in the Derby, was no match for Andre Fabre's Arc hope Kirlavall over this shorter tip at Saimt-Cloud. Now down to a Group Three, Ro-manow is the obvious one to beat, Germano may have been a bit rustly after a two-month rest when pipped by Arabian Story at Newbury, though King Alex did nothing for his Good-wood form in the Hardwicke. Fabris, considered a shade below his best when soith in the Derby, is a threat even though he fasted to cope with Crystal Hearted at Ayr last time. Saint-3.50 CORAL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £20,000 added 5f Penalty Value £15,045

TAMAYAZ is fancied for a repeat after threshing Ela Aristokrati by tive lengths in the race last year. The soft ground steemed to find him out behind Sasuru at Longchamp last time, but his previous win from Needle Gun in Dubei showed him to be as good as ever. Ro-

MOON STRUCE again has the weights in his favour against old rivel Blessingthologuise and they are drawn next to each other. Francise Detroit takes over on Moon Strike, who found traffic problems at Ascot when a length-and-a-haif thard to the Easterby runner. Moon Strike using properts at recomment a engine inter-risin use to the testerny furner. Moon Strike is 5th better off today and a mighty 12th better in after beating Blassingindisguise in the Gostorth Cup at Newcastle. Blessingindisguise hasn't stopped improving since Newcastle and won off a 14th higher rating at Ascot where he raced from 7th out of the handloop so he will again be hard to beat. Best drawn is Mille High, who had the distinction of beating

A	20	EUROLEASE MANDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £	5,000 added
	20	EUROLEASE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £ 240 filies of Penalty Value £3,920	•
1		ANGELBIA (A Foushil) P Howing 8 11	
2		BOLSHAYA (Mrs Care Deuters) / Berry 8 11	P Fessey (3) 4
3	a	CAROLINE'S PET (35) (6) Whitel A Ballay 8 11	
4	_	CEASE FIRE (T Hilmen) Mrs. J Cacl 8 11	
-5	56	CHOCOLUTE (41) (8F) (H R H Proce Faths Salmary J Dunkop 8 11	
6	5422	DODO (8) (8F) (Commander G G Marten) D Bayonth 8 11	Pool Eddery 8
7		EQUATY PRINCESS (Meldourn Al Meldourn) M Johnston B 11	
ß	50	MAGGICE (22) U A Forestit R Hollinghead 8 11	
9		POETRY IN MOTION (Peter Exten Recent) E Alsten 8 11	
10		RAPTURE (Lord Carreword R Harmon 8 11	
11		SET TRAIL () Hanson) J Hanson 8 11	
12	4	TEEPEE (38) (Highdern Thomoughbred Record Ltd) W Janes 8 11	R Hitts 7
13		ZELANDA (15) (RF) (Sheish Mohammed) J Gosden 8 11	
		- 13 declared -	
細形	NG: 9-4	Zelanda, 7-2 Chase Fire, 6-1 Equity Princess, 13-2 Dodo, 7-1 C	accolate, S-1 Rap-
feme.	Teenee.	16-1 Bolehava, Set Trail, 20-1 others	•

1996; Web Warned 2 8 11 Pat Eddery 8-13 fav (B Hills) drawn (1) 5 ran

4.50 NORTH LANCASHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added

I III OI PERBITY VALUE 23/093
-46100 FAR AHEAD (29) (John) Eliot) / L Byre 5 10 0
51 INTRINSE SMOOTHE (22) (D) Inca Brockstock) M Pion 5 9 10 R Haghes 2
OC-10 - REGAIT (21) (Shelin Ahmed Al Maksoum) M. Janes 3 9 4
025201 NOUFARI (FR) (26) (Ed Weekram) R Holinshead 6 9 3
0-020 CRYSTAL HELLS (16) (Shelih Mohammed) J Gosden 3 9 1
3-2215 MELODICA (15) (D) (Shelith Mohammad) N Saruta 38 13 11 Norma 3
46-341 VALAGALORE (12) (0) (Mrs A D Bourne) B Hills 3 8 11
/108-6 CHEF MOUSE (JS) (Bit Gaven) F Jordan 4 8 7
-32364 ORDANED (15) (Peter Bidon Rating) E Alston 4 8 3
- 9 declared -
TRACTICAL CARRIAGES TO SELECTION OF COMMENT AND AS A RESENT TA SER SHOOT BASIS

Throng Blook 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 Each way a quarter the colds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 C-Chal, H-Willem Hil, L-Lachsoles, T-Total

4 0000/3 ABLE PLAYER (JA1) K Drewy 10 10 9 ... 5 A01164 BLACK ICE BOY (15) R Bestumen 6 10 7 HYPERION 2.25 Arian Spirit 3.00 Nautical Star 3.30 Rebel 6 0-5634 THISOMESFORAUCE (7) I Golde 9 10 4 ... County 4.00 Kameney 4.30 Feel A Line 5.00 Don't

Left-listed galloping course.

Left-listed galloping course.

Course is east of fown on A768. Ayr raff station (service from Gasgow) Im ADMISSION: Club \$20; Grandstand \$10 (Students Course). & OAPS 55). CAR PARE: Free.
BUNKERED FIRST THEE Aries Spirit (visor, 2.35), Round Robin

(*100). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Another Nightmare (5.00) WINNERS IN THE MOST WAS GOT ROCKET (5.00) has been woo at Thirst on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Hever Golf Rocket (5.00) has been sent ato miles by T J Nanghion from Epoon, Surrey, Noney Native (1.25) sent 300 miles by J Pearce from Newmarket, Suffolk, Emmanory (1.25) sent 300 miles by J Pearce from Newmarket. Suffolk. (4.00) sent 300 miles by M Stoute from Newmarket, Suffolk.

2.25 MCELROY PRINTERS AMATEURS HANDI-CAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 7f 010004 MOSEY NATIVE (8) J Pearce 4 12 0 Mrs L Pearce 7 SETTING: 630332 STALLED (15) P Websyn 7 11 2 Marchitoness Blandford (4) 1 Baydiann

3. 505132 ARIAN SPIRIT (5) (CD) (ED) J.L. Byer 6 10 10. OD-6 THE ORRAMAN (40) J (Theil 3 10 1 _____ Mr J Bentoe (7) 8
.0063 YAAKIM (1948) S Kethenell 89 10 ____ Mins J Hardson (7) 9
0-0515 YHTTME TAITIMEER (114) (9F) J Schile 59 9 ____ Mins P Robson 2

BETTERE: 9-4 Arjan Spirit, 7-2 Staffed, 9-2 Vintage Teltringer, 6-1 Honey Nather, 7-1 Hook to Boy, 14-1 Abit Player, 16-1 The Oranson, 20-1 Indexes-3.00 BELLEISLE HOUSE HOTEL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000

added 2YO 7f BAYLHAM J Golde 9 C. 5 NAUTICAL STAR (35) J Hills 9 0... - 4 declared -

RESTRICE 4-5 Hautieni Star, 2-1 Liscoinstère, 100-30 Empire Park, 66-1

3.30 AYR FLOWER SHOW HANDICAP (CLASS 5 6 8

- 7 declared -BETTHIR: 3-1 Antarctic Storm, 100-30 Persian Payre, 4-1 Plan For Profit, 11-2 Superpide, 6-1 Dundel, 13-2 Continues Lady, 25-1 Robel County 4.00 EVENING TIMES NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000

SETTING: 1-4 Kamaner, 4-1 Round Robin, 10-1 Summer Thyrac

added 1m 2f

4.30 LADY ISLE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3YO 7f

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handlesp weight: Allsadara 7st 9th, Charso

D'Amour 17 7b.
BETING: 13-8 Feel A Line, 5-2 Abstone Queen, 5-1 Donne's Duncer, 8-1
Growtfair Led, 8-1 Tom Plackey, 14-1 Alisadaru, 20-1 Chanson D'Amour

5.00 AILSA CRAIG HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,500 added 6f

1	240400	QMINIOCK WILLEY (\$7) (C) (\$1) (BP) (Bary 79 11, 1) Gallagher 7 (B
2	4 <u>1</u> 0	HEVER GOLF ROCKET (16) (II) T I Naughton 3 9 6 J Weener 1
3	205041	SAFIO (12) A Balley 4 9 4
4		JUST BOB (2) (C) (C) S Kettlevell & 9 3 Jenny Benson (7) 11
5	000002	DON'T CHRE (7) (D) Miss L Pestatt 69 1N Kennedy 8 B
8		AMERICAN (43) (CO) J Berry 10 9 0
7		20HAYRO (4) (D) J Goldo 4 8 11
8		SHORTAINE (29) (D) M Johnston 4 8 4D Holland 2
9		AMOTRIER MIGHEMARE (7)(D) 11 Epis 58 4 1 Michaeley (7) 10
10		SUEDORO (7) (D) J Golde 7 7 11Danten Molfatt (3) 12
11		PATHAZE (4) (C) N Bycott 4 7 10M Honry (3) 3
12		ZAIN DANCER (S) (D) D Nicholis 5 7 10lone Wands (S) 5 B
13	643560	DIET (29) (CD) Miss L Penett 11 7 10
		_ 17 declared _

200 Str Ricky 2.30 Hoh Returns 3.05 Sandicliffe

4.10 Cosmic Prince 4.40 Hair 5.10 Midyan Cali

3.35 Eloquent STALLS: Far side except In 41 plus - sunda side.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. GOING: Good to Firm (watering).

2.00 MONTANA WINES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,753 added 1m - 9r Penarty Vanile 2.5,/555

DARBIN (RI) K Abdule R Cherton 38 10

CO JAZZ TRACK (EZ) (Mat J Magnin) P Creptie-Hjem 38 10

JUST TRACK (EZ) (Mat J Magnin) P Creptie-Hjem 38 10

JUST TRACK (ES) (Toy Marroy T Mits 38 10

GAST (SIGNED AND SEMED (153) (15) (R M Cyen) C Cyen 38 10

O42 SIR BECK (ES) (15) (Mat Sec) R Creation 38 10

O42 SIR BECK (ES) (15) (Mat Sec) R Creation 38 10

GASTANT HEBSTIS (15) (M J Bens) G Boxey 38 5

SALMAT HEBSTIS (15) (M J Bens) G Boxey 38 5

SALMAT HEBSTIS (15) (M J Bens) G Boxey 38 5

O SINCHCAP (15) (Ben Rochele) G Wings 38 5

— 10 declared —

BETTING; 7-4 Str Bicky, 11-4 Sine Gardens, 5-1 Marpel, 13-2 Panorama, 8-1 Inst Alex, 12-1 lazz per 1 1995; 1-4; all period, 20-1 others Track, 15-1 Deriod, 20-1 others 1996; Fine Detail 3 8 5 W Rysh 15-2 (R Charlton) drawn (4) 8 sa

2.30 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f Penalty Value £3,785

3.05 DANDELION LADIES INVITATION HANDICAP (CLASS F) £6,000 added 1m Penalty Value £4,299 1 301001 (CLASS F) £6,000 added 1m Penalty Value £4,299
1 301001 kms AMELSTAN (21) (D) (an Guise) 8 McMehron 9 11 7 Miles E Remarden 4 60
2 02000 MONTONE (49) (D) (8 Shired) Jenhins 7 11 2 Miles E Remarden 4 60
3 002201 MEZZORNANO (15) (CD) (4 R Phyles K Morgan 5 11 0 J. J. Arkettmot 7 V 52
4 00-015 SAMDILIPTE (15) (4-R Phyles K Morgan 5 11 0 J. J. Arkettmot 7 V 52
5 045050 PORT MONX (1-0) (CD) (4-R D M Holding R Rover 6 10 8 Miles E Johnson Houghton 5 62
5 045050 PORT MONX (1-0) (CD) (4-R D M Holding R Rover 6 10 8 Miles E Johnson 1-2 B 61
8 300:50 CUS SOTTOM (28) (D) (4-S D I morets 11:) D Shew 3 10 4 Miles A Sicane 1-2 B 61
8 506:033 TEZMS (4) (Modus Severi Than) 8 Harbury 3 10 4 Miles A Sicane 1-2 B 65
8 506:033 TEZMS (4) (Modus Severi Than) 8 Harbury 3 10 4 Miles A Sicane 1-2 B 65
9 42:050 DONT DROP POMBS (8) (D) (4/R ST Holden) D Thom 8 9 12 Miles C Mort 10 V 74
10 463:400 MISS BRACELONA (22) (64) Phyloson 9 Holdens 3 73
11 555-400 RESS BRACELONA (22) (64) Phyloson 9 Holdens 3 73
11 555-400 RESS BRACELONA (22) (64) Phyloson 9 Holdens 9 5 9 3 Miles U Schoulder 8 B 7
13 06205 CALLEY DANCER (31) (T E Caydon H Collingdip 5 9 3 Miles U Schoulder 6 8 — 13 declared - Miles U Schoulder 6 8 — 13 declared - Miles U Schoulder 6 8 — 13 declared - 14 Hoszoranio, 9 2 Sandiciffe, 11-2 King Athelstan, 6-1 Tezanb, 13-2 Cats Bottom, 19-6 Mezzoranio 4 10 9 Brgs Roesch 5-1 g fav (K Morgan) drawn (2) 10 ran

29-1 others
1996: Mezznamio 4 10 9 Birgs Roesch 5-1 p tav (K Morgan) drawn (Z) 10 mm
FORM GUIDE

Di Arbuthnot has been fourth in this in the past two years on Saltis and Belpare but probably has a better chance this time, having drawn the mount on last year's wriner MEZZORAMBO, Kevin Morgan's gelding is a good mount for apprentices/amateurs and has the fast ground he prefers. He justified favouritism at Yermouth last time, beating Present.
Generation and 1.4 others, and though he could be taken on for the lead by a couple of these, he is a game sort. Sandicaffie is shaping up to with a race the luck in running when fifth in a Windsor handicap last month) while Ming Adheistan is none too consistent but has won two apprentice swerms at Warwick this season and has Elaine Ramsden's help.
In 11th, it is difficult to hip out most of these, but the mare Carlis Bottoms can linish In muth, it is difficult to rule out most of these, but the mare Casts Bottoms can linesh thereabours. She was set soo much to do last time after a fair fifth to Missement at Bath and could take her cue from stablemate Raffles Rooster, easy witner of the Queen Mooter's Cup for lady riders at York in June.

3.35 ENZA NEW ZEALAND SWEET SOLERA STAKES (Listed race) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 270 7f

		(LISTED TACE) (CLASS A) E15,000 AMOU 210 TI
		Penalty Value £9,420
	560311	JAY GEE [7] (C) Usin Guesti & Margason 8 11
!	. 102	BELLADERA (15) (SF) (Mrs D Wingrif) N Tinkler 88
ı	2033	DIAMOND WHITE (7) (Pear P Scott) G Bravery 8.8
ľ	12	ELOQUENE (16) (Cheveley Park Stud) Sr M Prescott B 8
i	11	PARISIAN LADY (26) (Alex Gorrie) A Newcombe 8 8
ì		PRETICULAR PRESED (22) (Makepurn & Makepurn) E Dunico & B
•	· <u>137</u>	SILENT TRIBUTE (30) (Mrs E A Hams) M Bell 6 8Pet Edday 2 10
,	10	STOP OUT (21) (Sheren M-Buchanan & Partners) H Moreson & B
		المسلسة في

BETTINE: 7-4 Elequent, 7-2 Paristan Lady, 4-1 Sizent Titleste, 5-1 Particular Friend, 8-1 Jay Gee, 10-1 Stop Out, 16-1 Diamond White, 20-1 Bellacters 1996: Calvelt 2 8 8 M Hits 20-1 (W Hagged drawn (7) 10 cm FORM GUIDE

The likely stifling heat will test the temperaments of these tilles, but Parliatan Lady is also set an examination by being moved up to seven furiongs from s.c. She might be one of the least fisshioneble files on view, but what a cracking effort she put up at Selisbury lest time when zooming the lengths clear of Silver Strand in a lest time. ELOQUENT was following the Red Camelle peth (they both won the same Carlsie maklen) when concessing the Milicars Star Stales at Sandown (7h lest time end she fasied by only a snorthead to emulate that filly. Eloquent was caught, on the line by Woodland Melody, who is not an upward curve, and the third, Forum, had previously run a most promising sixth of 12 in the Charry Rinton when finding this six furiongs too short, Jay Geo., where of a valuable nursery here last Saturday, might wall improve for the extra furiong, while Silent Thibutis has impressed with her game outlook in being placed in Listed company here. Particular Friend and Shap Ost have improvement in the locker, although the latter gaduates from five furiongs to seven in one step

4.10 JOE JENNINGS BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £25,000 added 7f Penalty Value £19,040

- 17 declared
EFTING: 9-2 Counte Prince, 19-2 Mennest, 7-1 Pullstar, 8-1 Marier Boots, 9-1 Royal Marie, 19-1 Dunite Boons-1, 12 Chickwelde, Highborn, Mariy Sharp, Pleading, Volley, 18-1 Bine Re-

1996: Polar Painca 3 & 13 P Robinson 9-1 (M Janua) drawn (5) 14 nm FORMI GUIDE

The three-year-olds are worth a second look in handloops at this stage of the season and COSMIC PRENCE, is on the upgrade even if his free-running style does make him a shade vulnerable. He bothed after the statis opened prematurely in the Schweppes Golden Male and previously led at a cut-throut gladpo before fading into initial in another valuable handloop over the Sandown mile. Beforehand, he won a 0-100 grade handloop over the Epsom steen under a fine flot from Ray Cochrene, Medi Janue describes Cosmic Prince as a hyper-nervous type, but at least the horse does not have far to travel to run. Royal Marik came back to form at Newcastle on Wednesday, beating Westman's Weigh over this trip, and should go well again despite the penalty. Philateur is up in the handloop star his tour-oner but his nixth of 20 to Fly To The Stars at Goodwood when moderately drawn and short of room shows that he remains competitive. Necesset ros backly in the Bunbury Cup that it is tempting to overlook that performance, while Double Bossie Bossie normally suns over ax furiongs but has shown form over seven. He can better than the later facts would indicate when tenth of 30 in the Wokingham and 13th of 20 in the Streets' Cup.

4.40 AUCKLAND HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added im 2f Penalty Value £5,726

American Whisper has Carl Lowther's claim to assist turn and although he has been off the dourse since June, the short break will probably have done him good. American Whisper Encountered fairly lost ground when witning a three-year-olds' handicap from Parry Romance at Sandown in June, but seemed more appreciative of the good going thet was waiting for him at Yamouth afterwards when beating Missile Toe. Slight preference is for INVERMARK, who may progress now that he has been geded. He pulled too hard when contesting a handicap on the Rowley course here in May, but was gelded afterwards and came out to land a Yamouth malden in a fight finish with three others. At least, the fourth, blacka was a clear-out winner there on Wednesday to give the form a timely tonuc, Hair has probably needed time, despite being forward enough to win a Newbury maiden in June and he is a threat along with Silver Groom.

Selection: RIVERDARK

5.10 AIR NEW ZEALAND MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 6f Penaity Value £3,623

5-35 FAYINK (52) (A G Newcombel A Howcombe 9 0....

O HAMMSERL RENEY (1634) (B) (B Howcombe 9 0....

OZ MEDTAN CALL (97) (Luciano Gauco) Mis A Perrett 9 0

245003 NUSHT EUPRESS (7) (BF) (R) McPulay B Horizony 9 0

TRECTY (15A) (H A HALSIMA) K Maha 9 0

AMELIA JANK (Prits Grm) L Montague Hall 6 9

55-06 HAMM (15A) (6) (Mahmod M Shaabi) P Kelenay 8 9

O-6422 LISTED ACCOUNT (USA) (22) (Nobel Libry G Wang 8 9

4 MARY CONNINALLIS (22) (Mis Courte Libry G Wang 8 9

BETTRE215-8 Mary Controllis, 5-2 Michael Call, 3-1 Listed Account, 8-1 Treety, 12-1 Faylts, Ha-man, 14-1 Havelythii Henry, 16-1 Asselle Jone, Might Express 1996: Disponed 3 9 0 P Robinson 9-2 (M Janes) Acares (13) 14 Jon

800m

victory

Wilson Kipketer of Denmark

missed out on a world record, but still easily retained his world

800m title with an assured vic-

tory in 1min 43.38sec here yes-

Kipketer blasted through the first 200 in 23.47sec and clocked

49.68 for the first lap, but al-

though his victory was never in

doubt he could not threaten the

record of 1:41.73 which he shares

ing mark in the sport, was set by Coe in 1981. Kipketer

equalled the time last month in

Stockholm. "I wasn't worried about a record," Kipketer said.

I ran a race where I knew they

The 26-year-old, who also

smashed the indoor 800m mark

twice in three days at the Eu-

ropean Championships at Paris

in March, has been undefeated

in the 800m over the last two

years and is the only runner

since 1984 to go under 1:42. Cuba's Norberto Tellez took

the silver in 1:44.00 with Amer-

ican Rich Kenah running a life-

time best of 1:44.25 to take the bronze. The Norwegian

Olympic champion Vehjoern

Rodal was never in contention

missed out on the Atlanta Olympics last year because of a

wrangle between the Kenyan

federation and his adopted

Denmark after he renounced

Meanwhile, in the women's

events, Motocco's Nezha

Bidouane recorded one of the

biggest shocks of the World

Championships with a drama ic late run to win the women

After hitting the home

straight several strides behind

his Kenyan citizenship.

The Kenyan-born Kipketer

and finished fifth.

couldn't catch me.

The record, the oldest stand-

with Britain's Sebastian Coe.

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: British triple jumper produces determined final effort but is unable to retain his title

Kipketer Cuban leaves Edwards with another silver strolls to

reports from Athens

Jonathan Edwards showed the competitive spirit of a champion here last night to earn Britain their fourth silver medal of the World Championships. writes Mike Rowbottom.

The 31-year-old defending champion produced a jump of 17.66m in his penultimate at-tempt to lift himself from third to second place behind Yoelvis Quesada of Cuba.

A huge effort of concentration on Edwards' part saw him improve on his final jump, but only by three centimetres to 17.69. After seeing the result register on the rotating scoreboard beside the track, Edwards smile ruefully before pacing forwards to embrace the new gold medallist. Quesada won with a second round jump of 17.85, the furthest recorded in the world this year.

It was an obvious disappointment for Edwards, who look silver at last year's Olympics - but also something of a triumph.

A heel injury had prevented him either competing or jumping properly for five weeks before these championships, and he arrived here talking in terms of a "step in the dark". Last night he landed safely to maintain his position as one of the world's leading triple jumpers on a night when the Olympic champion Kenny Harrison failed to progress after the first

Before competition began Edwards paced contemplatively back and forth beside the runway as the commentator referred to his world record performance at the previous World Championships in Gothenburg.

Edwards has tried to disrance himself from his annus mirabilis of 1995; in the end, it became a mental burden. But he has never been allowed to

The memory of his competition in last year's Olympics appeared to govern his strategy on his opening jump. In Atlanta, he had fouled his first two attempts but then overcome the prospects of elimination from



Triple jumper Jonathan Edwards failed to secure Britain's first gold medal at Athens yesterday. He finished second to Cuba's Yoelvis Quesada

encouragement of seeing Harrison no-jump on his first effort, Edwards took off well behind the board to get in a mark of 17.33. It represented a guarantee of his continuing involve-

It was soon to pass, howevthe final three jumps with 17.13. er. by Quesada. who jumped Having received the early 17.60 before his second round

attempt which beat Edwards' world-leading mark of the year by 11 centimetres. Edwards, who ran through his second attempt and only managed 16.80 on his third, slipped back to bronze as Quesada's colleague Aliccer Urrutia recorded 17.64 which was eventually good

had been forced to pull out of tomorrow's marathon because of a virus infection he had picked up in the last few days.

The 33-year-old had been a realistic medal hope for Britain.

He had feared the worst on Thursday night, although he deThursday night, although he deThursday night, although he deThursday night, although he de-

Earlier in the day came concided to give it an extra day to firmation that Richard Nerurkar see if he recovered. But last night the Wolverhamoton-born charity worker was forced to give in to the virus and withdraw from tomorrow's race.

"It's really unfortunate, be-

running normally. In the buildup to a marathon you need to be running easily and relaxed and I wasn't able to do that. I sensed something was wrong and the blood test I had showed an abnormal reading."

have been. Last week I wasn't

The withdrawal of the de-

rence and the Olympic

champion, Marie-Jose Perec.

appeared to have given Ottey an

outstanding chance of signing off

with a third consecutive 200m

For a moment, the self-styled

metres relay squad because of the leg cramp which struck him in Tuesday's world 400 metres final. Johnson's agent, Brad Hunt, said Johnson's leg was still sore. "Michael and Clyde Hart This coach | decided a few days' rest would be best for Michael

pulled out of American's 400

Photographs: Alisport

the Olympic champion Deon Hemmings and defending champion Kim Batten, the Moroccan produced a remarkable last 100 metres and pipped Hemmings on the line with a final burst after the last hurdle. Bidouane, who has never

400m hurdles final.

done anything of significance at a major championship before, finished in 52.97sec with Hemmings second in 53.09. World record holder Batten hung on for bronze in 53.52.

Bidonane is the second Moof the Ukrainian, as if she were championships. Hicham El Guerrouj, who won the men's 1500m on Wednesday, joined Bidouane on her on her victory lap and helped hoist her into

Bidouane first made her

Ato Boldon enjoys victory yesterday Photograph: Allsport

Boldon delivers but Ottey fails again In the absence of the defendtechnical race of the season, global championships disapgrandmother of sprinting ing champion, Michael Johnson, But what you plan and what your peared 40 metres from the line strained to hold off the advance roccan gold medallist of the in last night's 200m final.

Ato Boldon finally matched his words with deeds last night as he ran away with the 200 metres final, writes Mike Rowbottom.

approached, he was able to take a look either side before raising his arms to acclaim the victory which so many - and not least himself - had forecast would arrive in the 100m final.

The first man to run out and greet him as he sank to the track was his friend and training partner, Maurice Greene, who had come through to win the short sprint five days earlier.

Boldon - who was hampered by body allows you to do are often cramp in the 100m final after recording 9.87sec in the second about was the placing," he said. fending champion. Gwen Torround - always said the 200m was his race. He recorded 20.04sec his event, added: "I am defias he slowed before the line, with nitely the nerd of the sprints. Af-Frankie Fredericks taking yet an- ter what I have done here, I'm other silver in 20.23, and the somewhat disappointed bebronze going to Claudini da Silva, of Brazil, in 20.26.

Boldon was less manic after- slowest winner of this title." wards than he has been of late and seemed genuinely moved at his sense of satisfaction. winning his first major title. "This was probably my worst of an individual medal at a

different things. What this was all

Boldon, a noted student of cause I will have to go home title. But despite being the clear with the statistic that I was the leader as she turned into the

That should not entirely ruin

final straight, the 37-year-old Jamaican came under challenge

from Zhanna Pintussevich, the Merlene Ottey's last chance 100m silver medallist.

holding off the advance of time itself. The crowd seemed to be willing her on. But it was not enough The Ukrainian, whose jubi-

lation after the 100m had been cut short when she realised that Marion Jones had taken the gold, was able to celebrate freely this time after winning in 22.32sec, with Sri Lanka's Susanthika Jayasinghe taking silver in 22.39, 0.01sec ahead of the exhausted Ottey.

Football 3.0 unless stated

Major football fixtures: Page 27

v Bign; Fraserburgh v Deveronvele: Hundy; Lossiemouth v Nahn County; head v Rothes: Wick Academy v

WINSTONIEAD KENT LEAGUE: Beckenham

Wits TUNLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Beckenham
y Charham; Canterbury City v Commitmen; Deal
y Cray Wanderers; Faversham v Sheppey;
Folkestone invicte v Vickers Crayford Dentford Athletic; Greenwich v Tunbridge Wells;
Herne Bay v Crockenhilt; Hythe v Wintstebler;
Lordswood v Enth; Ramsgate v Slade Green;
Swanley Furness v Thamesmead.

Rugby League

mark in 1990 by winning the African championship, but was unable to go further than the semi-finals at the 1991 World Championships and 1992 Barcelona Olympics. She went out in the heats in the 1993 championships in Stuttgart.

Geher g

Aussie rules

APL: North Melbourne 17.14 (116) bt Bristiane

NATIONAL JEACHTE. New York Mets 12 Colorado 4: Philadelphia 6 Houston 4: Prosburgh 5 Flor-da 1: Chrospo Cubs 6 San Franceco 3. Cocan-rato 7 San Dego 0: Los Angeles 9 Montreal 4: Atlanta 3 St 1 Cubs 0. AMERICAN LEAGUE Devot 8 Kansas Cay 4; Cal-land 5 Milwaten 4; Tonoto 4 Ceveland 0; Boston 7 Minnesota 6; New York Yankess 4 Texas 2; Seat-tle 3 Chicago White Sox 2.

Baskethall Watford Royals have signed the American forward Immy Ratkiff, who was Derby Storm's leading scorer last season.

BOWES

ENGLISH WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPHON-SHAPS (Royal Learnington Spa) Pains champhonabh queirian-fathair A Beel and C Duchaorth (Braintree) In L Dent and M Borsor (Blackwei), Derbystwei 22-19. Two Wood singles, quantur finalis: A Pamer (Carton Cornen), Notta) in R Height Pothstead, RBJ 16-7: M Bainer (Blockwei) of Franklin (Bolton) 14-12: h Howes (Doord Carl C) in FSTong (Lincoln Rakway) 16-9; I Bainer Ausson (Notingham Casalway) to W Day (Parshore, Wood 16-13. Smith finals: Parker th Bainer 18-8; Hawes It Bainer 18-8; Ha

Therland's Yokthar Sith Oar retained the World Boxing Association junior ban-tarnweight title yesterday in a unanimous decision over his Argentine challenger

Roy Jones Jnr knocked out his tellow

American Montell Griffin in the first round to take back the World Bodge Council light heavyweight title on Thursday at Foxwoods Casino, Ledyard, Connectit-

Christian Henn, of Germany, won the 120km third stage of the Tour of Den-mark race between Nordborg and Haderskey yesterday, Glovann Lombardi of Italy, who won Thursday's stage, took over the yellow jersey as overall leader from Australia's Robbie McEwen. Hern and Lombardi are both with the six-man German Telekom tearn. The 859km race sonis in Chrombards on 10 August German Telekom team. The SSSkm race ends in Copenhagen on 10 August. TOUR OF DEMARK Third stage (120m, from Nordburg to Harlemfley, Den) Leeding placings: 1 C Hern (Ser) Telekom 19x 37ma 198es; 2 M Sacido (Den) Post Damrani, +2set; 3 J Silvos (LJD Deschelborn + 11set; 4 B Hern (Den) Telekom 19x 37ma 19x 37ma

Equestrianism

toni clear, afministract, Senerar Tees Hansuar (R Smeth) clear, 4 fouter, Virtual Village Granmusch (I Whitevier) der nor start in fiser router); 8 fautes Standings on Samstaug Netforns Coup serfest 1. Great Entzin 30. Spits; 2 USA 28.5; 3 Geometry 25.5. Supreme Rüdden Hunter Champstonschipt The General (W Trevithick); Reservet, Comcarber (D Galnal, Kernygdul Bit and Hunter 1 Virth De-jacober (E Van der Vieuren, Ned) 26pts, 65.06sec; 2 Mighty Blue R Smith, 69) 25, 62.03; 3 hono-cands (B Patton, US) 25, 62.68.

Football Crystal Palace are ready to pay Wolves £2m for Neil Emblen, who can play in defence or midfield, but the deal is unlikely to go through until next week. Birmingham have failed with a joint of-fer for Paul Trollope and Ashley Ward, who prefer to stay with Derby than make a £2m move to the Blues.

Stoke have signed Stephen Tweed, the former Hibernian defender, from the Greek club ionikos. Greek Club Ionikos.

TRANSFERS. Sean Figna (mollecter) Darby to Wass Bromach (£20,000); Lee Heusey Ideterief Sunderland to Burniey (£200,000); Peter Sena (Jetanderland (Jetanderland Manchester City to Grasshopper Zirich (Jone-year Loan plus £40,000); Riddy Gilles (midisteller) St Mirren to Aborden (£350,000); Gillbert Bas (Roward) Erich (Jetanderland (Jetander

LOAMS: Devid Regie Horsard) Barnsley to Sourthorps; Kelvin Davis (gosticepter) Luson to WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

20.26
4.1 Garcia (Cuba) 20.31; 5 G Penagloupoulos (Gr) 20.32; 6 O Thoruson (Bar) 20.37;
7.1 Drummond (US) 20.44; 8 P Stevens (Bel)
20.44; 1 Wilson Kipketer (Det) 1,555 43,555 2 2 Norberto Tellez (Cube) 1,556 1244,00 2 Steh Kersti (US) 1,566 1244,25

3 ASSOCIATIONS (LUDS) 17.64 4 D Kasustin (Rus) 17.59; 5 B Wellman (But) 17.22; 6 J Romain (Dominica) 17.17; 7 C Melanogou (Gri 17.12; 8 A Densu (Gra) 17.11; 9 K Hantson (US) 17.05; 10 S Helan (Fr) 16.97.

(Fri 16.97.)
Discuse: Qualifying round (63m or best 12 to thing: Group A: 1.) Schult (Gar) 64.60m; 2 V Sciorov (Uhr 53.08; 3 V Kaptyukh (Beis) 63.06; 4 A Seeng (Gar) 62.94; 5 A Tartement (Est) 62.18; 6 1 Turks (Car) 6.182; 7 A Estade (Cuba) 61.48; 8 V Workes (Uhh 61.40; 20 A Bloom (US) 60.74; 10 O Jerssen (Not) 60.52. Selected: 19 G Smith (GB) 54.40.

___58.32

1 Louise Souvage (Aus) _ 1min 52.119ec 2 Chantal Poticière (Can) _____152.49 Kooliny's schoolabe

0.05em; Worker's intention Built trans
0.25e Worker's Ingestion (Wile)
4.25e Worker's Ingestion (Wile)
4.25e Worker's Hope and
4.25e Worker's AutOon rans' Say regel
4.25e Worker's AutOon rans' Say regel
4.25e Worker's AutOon state Say, find mand
5.10e Worker's jacktick state Say, find mand
5.10e Worker's jacktick state Says
5.10e Worker's jacktick state Says
5.10e Worker's JOCON Says
5.10e Worker's 5.000 Nine
6.40e Worker's 6.000 Nine
6.40e Nine
6.40e North AutOon Says
6.40e Nine
6.40e Ni

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Wittredt (Blackburn), McDistroell (HCD), Qubia (Cystal Palacel, Meher (Totorham), Carr (Toterham), Ryan (Huddersfeld), Rilbison (West Brommer), Phenan (Notic Courry), Baland (Coverny), Mongan (St. Patrick's Aribed), Farrelly (Beston), Benge (Lucri), a Keily Mehod, Farrelly (Beston), Benge (Lucri), a Keily Mehod, Farterbrough).
WITERMARDONAL FREEDOLY (Baltimore): Unit-

terborugh).

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Baltimore): United States O Ecuador 1 NV Senchez 83)

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Scottish Cocadols Cap second rounds Harmiton O Renges: 1 NACOLS 62), Friendly matchine: Hydr Litt J. Man Chy 3 C; Carriston 1 Cydral Plaico 3 C; Criston 9 1, Franch Lesquiz Auem 2 (Guant 23, Mariet 40) Paris St-German 3 (Simone 54, Maurice 73, Res 88; Remas O Lyons 3 (Caregies 32, Delmotte 70, Job 80).

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(68 or in unless statement 66 L- Faircough, 67
W Drick, C Mettrew, T Johnson, 68 M-I. de Loren2 (Fi), A Radford, 69 A Ncholes, -) Moode, F
Ples (Aus), H Wester, T Johnson, 68 M-I. de Loren2 (Fi), A Radford, 69 A Ncholes, -) Moode, F
Ples (Aus), H Wester, 150, I Moode, F
Ples (Aus), F Dessu (M), L Newson (58), I Meartha,
C Plence, M de Boer (Neth. 73. J Lee (Kor), M
Haght (Swe), O Booler (Aus), I Meart, SN, J Mooley, L Neumann (Swe), L Davies, A Berix (US), P
Sterrer (Swe), R Carrisdo (So), 72 R Hernaningtin (Mus), V van Photesjern (Neth), C Donch (Aus),
S Waugh (Aus), P Meurier Lebouc (Fr), D
Bernard, A Gottmo (Swe), M Marroy, E J Smith,
K Peetre (Mus), M Busson (Swe), F Sprons (NO),
L Brooky (NO), T S Dallongewie (Fr), K Ourn
(Den), Sen (Jus), M Busson (Swe), T Sprons (NO),
M Modil, S Carbon (Mus), Sherboun, (Fr), Se
Mash (Swe), T Pouton, M Sherboun, (Fr), Se
Mash (Swe), T Western (Swe), K Moreson (Swe),
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Hight, K Arebous Correction (Swe), K Afredoxon

- A Cennes ameteur

CZEICH OPPER (Pregion) Lauding sarly socond-NICDONALD'S WIPGA CHAMPIONSIEF OF EU-ROPE (Glemandon) Lending first-round scoves

S Moon (U.S.), B Pessignal (SA).

Adenous ameteur

CESTA DPPIN (Pragnet) Landing early excondrectud acones (CSI) or H unless stated(1: 131

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P Sciental (See) 77 62; 133 (Propris See) 76

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Lunger (Carl 70 67; T Johnston (Jime) 69 69; R

Devis (Jus) 69 68; W River (Jus) 67 70; V Philips

70 67; R Chustman 69 68; P Harmignon 69 68; R

Devis (Jus) 65 68; W River (Jus) 67 70; V Philips

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Jas (Gen) 71 67; 13 Pen 67 73 68; S Tomance

71 68; R McFarlane 72 67; A Coltar 72 67; J

Sector 68 71; A Streetone 70 69; R Bumn 72

67; P McGalinto 72 67; G On 73 68; S Scath

POZ 72 67; Y Gogste (Gen) 72 67; X Vornole (Fn)

70 GB; A Forsbrand (Swe) 67 72; P Mitchell 70 GB; J Lomas GB 70, 140 F Termand (F) 70 TO; R Rafferty 73 GB; P Broadurs 77 GB; C Rocca (b) 70 70; M Role GB 71; M Chander (Swe) 73 GB; R Cleydon 71 GB; D Charey 70 70; S Webster 71 GB; M Grotberg (Swe) 70 TO; 1 Pyram 73; J Rockson 69 71; M Feory 67 72 GB; D Bornego (Sp) 70 70; J Wade (Was) 71 GB; P Haugstud (Not 72 GB; P Lintart (Sp) 70 TO.

USLFGA FRIENDLYS CLASSIC (Measurements) Leading first-round scores (US unless stated; GB J PEDOC, C DIVISIO; GB A FYME, V Fergan, M Daska, A FYME, V Fergan, M Daska, J Rockson, GB, K March (Swe) 70 TO; K Technology GB, M Raiska, A FYME, V Fergan, M Daska, J Rockson, GB, K March (Swe) 70 GB; M Raiska, GB, M Fronton, GB, M Rockson, GB, meinn i Perrisi, Chito, ZZI, Nice-pluyling capitale. D Gray (Persoccia, Ronda).

Seut Britani and Ireland: M Brooks (Lanari, Scotland, 25), R Coughlan (Bar, Iraland, 23), 8 (Hometot, Morrisotre, Scotland, 43), K Noban (Dublin, Iraland, 24), D Paris (Craden)-M, Maller, 23), G Randon (Arotte, Scotland, 31), J Rosen (Nool, England, 17), C Waltson (Graylon, Scotland, 33), S Vost (Francis, 17), C Waltson (Graylon, Scotland, 33), S Vost (Francis, 17), C Waltson (Graylon, Scotland, 33), S Vost (Francis, Scotland, 20), Norphaying Capitalin: C Brown (Llandudho, Walts).

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Salling
SKUMDIN, LIFE COWES WESIC Class, 1 CHS and
Mast: 1R Lofts (Desperado Of Cowes); 2 J Werns
(Australem Marti; 3 C Little (Bounder), Class 2
CISS: 1 M McAlfish (Masting Sally; 2 J Garret
(Garretty); 3 C Lego (Femboyes), Class 3 CHS:
1 P Bernsh (Anticl; 2 T Murry (Morbight Epresss); 3 M Pelling (Croutees), Class 4 CHS:
1 P Bruss (Orde); 2 B Harret (Serent Detta); 3
M Del Bras (Caroline), Class 5 CHS: 1 I Hardley 6 Risch Salmer (Matic); III; 2 H Adrig (Antic);
2 P & P Tyter (Bradrey), Class 6 CHS: 1 H Moody
(Strated); 2 S & J Under (Punte Hass); 3 A Wilders
(Normal), Class 7 ESC: 1 T B J Petrit (Le Fred);
2 P & V Nessel (Chartertes Will; 3 Cr J Ferry & D
Gay (Debonard), Class 6 SSC: 1 W Wester (QuoVords of Cossel: 2 D Select (Ultras); 3 M Robincon (Erica), Class 6A SSR: 1 M Lennon
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(Reve Guy (Debonsin), Usesse s saxt 1 w vecces (upo lodgs of Cosess); 2 D Seniel (Union); 3 M Robin-son (Erda). Class 9A SSR: 1 M Lorinon (Revitad); 25 Havilion (Le Bouchard); 3 M Lany R Sugles T Romano (Opbruumn). Classe 95 SSR: 1 Benetessu (K (Vacining World's Ticole*); 2 C å H Neve (No Limit); 3 R & C Sharmson (Linguid-ed Missole); Sigpan 38; 1 K Slassmiter (Mediator); 2 A Saling Association (Redicors III); 3 J Bourier & Rection (Noper (Hoto) V), Sentinas (9); 1 fear Sursal (Sursal Ticole*); 2 Registrated (Unional Sursal (Sursal Ticole*); 3 (Bourier); 5 (Sursal Beugh), Signas 38; 1 J Boriet (Skorp John B); 2 J Peny (Frascomn); 3 V & P & P B Powers (Signat-to B, X-86: 1 B Hember (Rod); 2 A Vegl & I Haygho Misson (Signas 38; 1 J Boriet (Skorp John B); 2 J Peny (Frascomn); 3 V & P & P B Powers (Signat-to B, X-86: 1 B Nember (Rod); 2 A Vegl & I Haygho Misson (Signas 38; 1 J Boriet (Skorp Lorinos); 1 or General Mediator); 3 P & Hospital (Rod); (Genificities 1 1; Rod (Skorp); 3 P & Si Boriet (Rod); (Genificities 1); 1 Rod (Skorp); 3 P & Si Boriet (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Hospital Misson (Skorp); 5 P & Si Boriet (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Hospital Misson (Skorp); 5 P & Si Boriet (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Hospital Misson (Skorp); 5 P & Si Consol Foundation (Deus Boran B), 2 N Charles (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Hospital Misson); 5 Part (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Class Boran B), 2 N Charles (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Class Boran B), 2 N Charles (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Class Boran B), 2 N Charles (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Class Boran B), 2 N Charles (Skorp); 3 P Si Charles (Skorp); 3 D Wheldon (Robots); 1 Skorp); 2 P Spring (Part Robots); 3 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 3 P Spring (Part Robots); 3 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 3 P Spring (Part Robots); 3 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 4 P Spring (Part Robots); 3 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 4 P Spring (Part Robots); 3 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 4 P Spring (Part Robots); 4 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 4 P Spring (Part Robots); 4 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 4 P Spring (Part Robots); 4 D Sinth (Sur-Senies); 4 P Spring (P

Dragon: 1. R. Campbel & B. Stanford (Quedesiver by: 2.1 Wilsams (France); 3. R. Pettons (Rayon). National Swallows: 1. J. Vernon (Archon); 2. M. Upton N. Pattson: W. Kright (Goosander); 3. I. Wylte J. Marsh P. Lancoshner (Swala). Redwing: 1. K. & M. Bernham (Partouet); 2. T. & M. Montagu Dougles Scott (Scient); 3. M. Nacharas, 5. S. M. Rachardson (Avocet), Soleant Samberant: 1. P. S. & J. O'Vee (Loy); 2. S. Standard & D. Miller (Bryony); 3. R. Micharas, Standard & D. Miller (Bryony); 3. R. Micharas, Standard & D. Miller (Bryony); 3. R. Micharas, Standard & D. Miller (Bryony); 3. R. R. D. Dobts Cicyl; 2.5 Staddard & D.Miller (Busony); 3.8 Medi-ers (Darry). Searchige Mannacht. 1.8, R. & R. Dubbe. (Bluebell); 2.6 Pless (Sheen); 3.8 Few Brown & J. Decorcive (Issaid.). Inderentational Phylog Pit-tees: 1.7 Decor (Dusby); 2.1 & Pau Heyden (Doga-sico); 3.1 Germiga (Basica). X. One Design: 1. W McMell & A. Tradriss (Varinty; 2.1 & A. Mellery-Prats (Mooreleet); 3.R & I. Field (Pensephone), Ma-tional Signife: 1.0 or Desent (Sheptorius), Mo-trony; 1.1 Leer (Zmina); 2.1 Penyman & N. Ban-lary (Radis); 3.B. Middiestich & P. Coll (Steadlard). Ceek 1720: 1.5 Hendhom (Le Bourbort); 2.1 Eng-lish & T. Duccan (T. Bornel; 3.1 Richardson & Ser M. Norman (Premier Cru).

Speedway
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Ellia Lungue: ip-swich 45 Kings Lynn 45, Presider League: Sheffield 49 Stoke 41.

SQUIRSSI WORLD WICKER'S TEAM CHARTHONISH WORLD USEON WICKER'S TEAM CHARTHONISH FIRE A SHAPE AND A CHARTHONISH Engine 3 & Common to A of Master to A Middle 92 9.5 9.3 C Boommon to A of Master to 9.3 9.5 19.5 L Briggs to A Review B-10 9.2 9.5 L Middle 93 2.5 September 3 Engine 5. State place play-office France 2 brokend 3.1 Stocky to A Shale 9.3 9.0 19.8 V Priorary by C Reely 20.8 9.5 9.4 N Bowden toot to S Fartey 7.9 5.9 0.9 September 3.1 N Bowden toot to S Fartey 7.9 5.9 0.9 September 3.1 L Griffing toot to Market 2.2 threat 1.1 L Griffing toot to Market 2.9 9.9 9.9 9.0 A Vaugeon by N Cookin 9.0 9.7 6.9 10.9).

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124 Standards SATELLINE (Southbook) Mour's siggless, first sound: D Fraction (620 bt A first (US) to
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Gards (150 5 4 8-44) bt 1 Deviction (160 6 5 8-2 ft Witchell (May) bt 1 Deviction (160 6 8-2 ft) gs (Aus) 1-6-6-16-3.

SAN MARRINO MEN'S CLAY COURT TOURNAMEN'S Singles, second round; F Marrita (So) at Davide Sangament (In 6-4-4-6-6-3; C Ruus (Nor) tr.) Marrin (Sp) 6-3-3-6-8; C Cotat (So) tr. R Furian (II) 5-7-6-3-6-3; I Sanchez (So) tr. R Furian (II) 5-7-6-3-6-3; I Sanchez (So) tr. R Furian (II) 5-7-6-3-6-3; I Sanchez (So) tr. R Furian (II) 5-6-1, quarter-furiality M Soles (IIS) tr. N Zeethe (Beth) 6-1-6-1, Second counted A Sanchez (Wash (Sp) tr. N Soles (IIS) tr. N Zeethe (IIS) 1-6-6-1, N Soles (IIS) 1-6-1, N Soles (IIS) 1-6-4, N Soles (IIS)

G-4, AD CHAMPHONESHIPS (Namon, Ohlo) Mem's sin-gles, third resent: P Semerus (US) by P Reflec-gles, third resent: P Semerus (US) by A Mechades 3-6 6-16-4; A Semenus Result for B wareleste (Cross) 6-46-4; A Cost (Soil by A Compty (Sp) 6-17-b; 7 Auster (Aut) by M Darrim (UZ Resu) 7-6-3-3-6.7 G-5 S Bugstera (Sp) by J Novak (UZ Resu) 7-6-6-3; Y Kafenicky (Rus) by M Rosa (Chiett 7-5-6-2; G Killetten (Br) by V Spades (US) 6-7-8-3-8-4.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

BOWLS: Thed men's Under-25 Test: England v Australia (Homehurch): EWBA National Cham-pionships (Learnington). EQUESTRIANISM: Dublin Horse Show. GOLF: McDonald's WPGA Championship of Eu-TENNENTS HIGHLAND LEAGUE CUP First round: Clacimacuddin v Fort William; Cove Rangers v Buckle Thistle; Fornes Mechanics v Eigh; Fraserburgh v Deveronvale; Kerth v MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car Champ-TOMORROW

head v Rothes; Wick Academy v Brora Rangers, WRIKINSON SWORD BRISH LEAGUE CUP First round: Ards v Branbucod; Bathyclare Comrades v Royal (Lister Constabulary; Carnot, Rangers v Banbridge: Chimney Comer v Cirifornwile; Cookstown v Lame; Crussders v Armagh Carp Durdels v Balymore (tid; Dungarinon Swifts v Destillery; Glenavon v Harland & Wolff Welders: Glentoran v Tobermore Uti; Umawady Utid v Bangor; Linfield v Balmanniand Utid; Loughgall Lida v Portadown; Moyola Park v Colerante; Newry v Balmonney Utid; Omagh Town v Institution. Rugby League

SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford Bulls v Leeds (6.35); Sheffeld Eages v Wegen (6.30); St Ne-lers v Oldham (3.0); Warrington v Salford (3.0). DIVISIONAL PREMIERSHIP Cumbria Pools Jeris v Odfarn (3.0); Warmignon v Selford (3.0). DMISIONAL PREMIERSHIP Cumbria Poot: Lancachine: Lyrx v Barnow (3.0); Whitehead v Worldington (3.30), East Yorkshire Poot: Nutl v Hull Kingston Rouses (3.15) (at Boothferry Park); Welvelield Trinity v York (3.30), Lanceshire Poot: Welvelield Trinity v York (3.30), Lanceshire Poot: Keighley Cougans v Leigh (3.0); Widnes v Swinton (3.0), Weet Vorkshire Poot: Battey v Bramley (3.15); Huddersfield v Hunsler (3.0).

ELITE LEAGUE: Coventry v Bradford (6.0); East-bourne v Poole (3.30); Peterborough v Wolver-hampton (6.0).

Other sports BOWLS: EMBA National Championships (Lea-ROTELANDEN HORSE Show Mington). EQUESTRIANDEN: Dublin Horse Show March Champronshy

Aron insurance commended.

Aron insurance commended for the to-vision: Porsmouth v Norwich (2.0).

FRIENDLY MATCHES: Ashiford v Chelsea XI;

Boreham Wood v Wimbledon XI. GOLF: McDonaid's WPGA Championship of Europe (Gianeagles).
MOTOREYCLING: British Superbike Championship (Knocknit, File).

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

RITISH CRAND PRIX (7.0) (at Bradford).

stops: Roger Black, British arre-letics team captain, on heptathlete Denise Lewis's magazine

ionships 100 metres pre-race favourite who finished fifth, on the winner, Maurice Greene. If I am to go down I am going to go down fighting - Which is es-

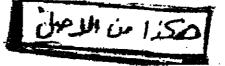
The pressure's all on Jon now semilarly what happened. Blode He's got to support me and get was Balley Divinois stantation; me pregnant. Sailly Gunnell on second in the 190m that husband, Jon Bigs, as she an nowness her retirement from any second for the 190m that second in the 190m that secon have said are 'not guilly'. John Fashanu, on being acquined of manuficiality charges. There is not much differe phroto spread.

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er Kipketer Youthful strolls to 800m victory Rose ready to blossom

A Briton will become the youngest golfer in Walker Cup history today. Andy Farrell, in New York, found him in confident mood

sporting moment, Great Britain and Ireland set about their defence of the Walker Cup with the youngest player ever to compete in the biennial transatlantic competition. Justin Rose is today 10 days past his 17th birthday but the does not stop him being a key member of a side which also contains the 44year-old Open silver medal winner Barclay Howard.

Rose is younger than Ronan Rafferty, Peter Baker and the American Roland MacKenzie, who were all also 17 when they played in the two-day amateur ersion of the Ryder Cup. Tall and strong, but also mature beyond his years, Rose, who left school last year with eight GCSEs, has been groomed for his occasion almost like Tiger Woods.

Photographic evidence exists of Rose, who was born in South Africa of English parents, using plastic clubs and balls at 11 months. He does not remember, but he does recall breaking 70 for nine holes for the first time. He was five. "Dad would give me little targets," Rose said, and would give me a train set or something if when I did

In this, his first summer as a full-time amateur, Rose won the St Andrews Links Trophy. "At start of the season I felt it was unrealistic to make the Walker Cup, but it was what J wanted to achieve. All the tournaments I played were mapped out to try to get into the team." His selection became inevitable. Peter McEvoy, the former British Amateur champion who played against Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo before they turned pro, says Rose is better than either of those two at his age.

"His maturity is what strikes you," said Gary Wolstenholme, who played foursomes with Rose in an England international against Spain earlier this year.

Youth being the flavour of the "You think he's 22 or 23. Technically, he has an extremely good

woistenholme, famously, beat Tiger Woods as Great Britain and Ireland regained the Cup at Royal Porthcawl two years ago. But overall, America lead the series 30 to four, with one tie. On home soil the Americans have only lost once, at Peachtree in 1989, and four years ago, led by the new Open champion Jason Leonard, delivered a thundering 19-5 thrashing at Interlachen.

Where the visitors are better off this time is in having had four of their number - Steven Young, David Park, Richard Coughlan and Keith Nolan - play American college golf. This is Rose's first experience over here and Quak-er Ridge offers a typical US Open set-up with the thick rough around the greens to be avoided.

"This is my favourite type of golf," Rose said. "I prefer target golf to links golf. No doubt I'll be nervous, but I don't think there's any extra pressure on me being the youngest. If you're playing well you can cope with any-

While the Americans are led by Steve Scott, 19, the runnerup to Woods when he won a third US Amateur last year, and 45-year-old John Harris, Great Britain and Ireland also have a range of youth and experience. Up to five of the team may turn pro after the match - Rose will probably stay on for one more match - but their are also career amateurs in the form of Amateur champion Craig Watson, 31, Graham Rankin, also 31, Wolstenholme, 36, and Howard.

The reformed alcoholic was the only amateur to play all four rounds at Royal Troon and has decided to retire after playing for Scotland in the Home Internationals next month. "It's time to go," he said. "I want to go out on a high and there's no way you can top all this."

Teams, Digest, page 24



Young swinger: Justin Rose practises on the sixth hole at Quaker Ridge Golf Club yesterday

Swede misses out on record

Patrik Sjoland narrowly missed birdie putts on the last two holes to lose a chance of becoming the first European Tour player to break 60 in a full event, in the second round of the Czech

Open near Prague yesterday. The Swede's 10-under-par 61 sliced three strokes off the Karlstein course record and earned him a share of the lead with Spain's Ryder Cup prospect, Ignacio Garrido, and another Spaniard, Miguel Jimenez.

Early evening thunderstorms halted proceedings with 36 play-ers left to complete their second rounds this morning. The first-round leader, Britain's Scott Henderson, was nine under par, two shots off the lead, with three

holes left when play stopped. Sjoland was a stroke off the European Tour record for 18 holes as he joined Garrido and Jimenez on 11-under-par 131, two strokes ahead of the field. The Swede also equalled the best score of the year, by Britain's Jamie Spence at the Cannes Open, as he picked up 10 birdies by the time he came Photograph: Allsport to the eighth, his 17th hole.

Needing two more birdies for the first 59, a putt of 18 feet spun out of the cup on the eighth and he just missed the hole at the ninth, his last, from 15 feet.

sport

Sjoland had switched to an old putter and needed only 25 putts in his round. "I started thinking about the record after I birdied the fourth, my 13th hole." said Sjoland, who led last year's Italian Open with five holes left but finished second. "But when I lipped out on the eighth I knew it wasn't to be."

Garrido continued his challenge for a Ryder Cup place with a 65, while Jimenez posted 64. Another Swede, Daniel Chopra, is in the clubhouse on 133 after a 63.

Garrido, 10th in the Cup table in his race for a place on Seve Ballesteros's team against the United States next month, can clinch his Cup place three weeks before the qualifying deadline, but Italy's Costantino Rocca, ninth, is almost certain to miss the cut here by a stroke. He could also be passed by in the table by Ireland's Padraig Harrington, who is six off the lead after a 68.



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Kelleher guides Irish into play-offs

BILL COLWILL

reports from Harare

Sara Kelleher guided Ireland to an unexpected 3-2 win against Japan in the World Cup qualifying tournament here yesterday, with the victory earning her team a place in tomorrow's

fifth-to-eighth play-offs.

Ireland, who had just one point from their labours here before yesterday's encounter, had to win against the Japanese to keep alive any hopes of making next year's finals in the therlands. They started badletting in two goals in the pening 14 minutes and look-

g ragged. Towards the end of the first half they won a string of penalty corners but were unable to breach the Japanese defences. with Japan's goalkeeper Nima Miyazaki quite outstanding in covering her line. Kelleher, who h

er, who had turned in noderate efforts at the tourna-

land's recovery eight minutes into the second half with a strong run down the right. The Slough midfielder found Lynsey McVicker inside to strike the first blow into the back of the net.

Spurred on by a large band of supporters, the Irish again drove forward, though their endeav-ours received a setback with the temporary suspension of Mary Logue. Reduced to 10 players. they forced a penalty corner in the 43rd minute and Arlene Thompson scored the equaliser.

At a penalty corner with just seven minutes remaining, the ball was switched by Thompson to Kelleher, who drove in the winning goal. There was still time for Japan's captain Sahori Miyazaki to hit the crossbar at the other end, but the Irish survived. Their coach Terry Gregg was ec-static. "You can't believe what this result means to me," he said.
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
Herare! Pool A: leand 3 lapan 2 Final Pool
A standings: 1 South Africa (PS, Ped 3) 2 h-

Darragh's clear win

Equestrianism ENEXIVE MURPHY ports from Dublin

Paul Darragh jumped two clear rounds on the mare Scandal to lead Ireland to success in the Nations Grap at the Kerrygold Dubing Herse Show yesterday while Britain, the joint leaders after the first round, trailed into ireland who received the

Aga Khan frophy from their president Mary Robinson. claimed the victory without Eddie Macken having to jump a single fence. Like Ireland, Britam had three clear circuits in the first round, from Nick Skelton on Virtual Village Showtime, Geoff Billington on It's Otto and Robert Smith on Senator Tees Hanauer, with ohn Whitaker thus not reuired to jump Grannusch in the first round.

But drama followed, with the elimination of Billington, who was the best of the British contingent when sixth at last year's Olympic Games in Atna. His problems began at the

fourth fence, a treble, where It's Otto refused at the final element and sent poles flying in all directions. It took five minutes for the fence to be rebuilt.

Billington's day went from bad to worse when he fell from the horse after the final fence. The judges decreed that he had fallen before going through the finish, and therefore was eliminated. After Showtime and Hanauer had made single errors. Whitaker could have retrieved the situation with a clear round on Grannusch, forcing a jump-off with Ireland - but he dropped two fences to leave the team in fifth.

The Netherlands moved up from fifth to be runners-up after three faultiess second rounds. Eric van der Vleuten was the only Dutchman to emulate Darragh's performance of two clear circuits.

Van der Vieuten's teammates Jan Tops, on Operette la Silla, and Piet Raymakers, partnering the leading horse in the 1992 Olympics, Jewel's Classic Touch, were faultless at their second attempts.

Overmars to provide cutting edge

THE WELL-KNOWN IMPORT

Glenn Moore talks to the **Dutch** speedster who prefers to live life in the slow lane

rom Iceland's Bjarni Gudjon-sson to Macedonia's Georgi Hristov, the foreign players have flown in this summer leaving fans scratching their heads and wondering whether their manager has bought a carthorse or a diamond. Arsenal, it appears, may have bought both in one deal.

Their main signing, the most en-ticing of the summer, is Marc Over-mars. a £6m recruit from Ajax. His pedigree is impressive - he is a European Cup winner and World Cup quarter-finalist - and his past un-

Overmars, who makes his Arsenal debut at Leeds United today, grew up on a family farm. It was a smallholding which had made little investment in mechanisation. Thus, come time for the potato harvest, Overmars would yoke himself with a rope and haul along a cart while, behind him, other family members pulled out the crop. This, he thinks, may have contributed to his

renowned pace.

As muscle-building tales go, it is up there with the claim that Dickie Bird prepared for a season's umpiring by standing for hours with bags of sugar attached to his legs and that Anthony Nesty, Surinam's first Olympic swimming champion, gained his speed in shark-infested waters. This one, however, appears to be at least partially true.

"I grew up on a farm," said Overmars when we met this week. "I used to help my grandfather who had no machines, no tractors. Each year when we harvested potatoes we had to do it with a rope from the front and few men standing on a platform. We would pull them along while they pulled up potatoes. They told me: 'This is good for you Marc'. Every year they would phone me and say: 'It is harvest time.' His grandfather, incidentally, still lives on the farm. He is, said Overmars with noticeable pride, 94 years old.

Overmars also attributes his pace to his mother - "she was quick but, being a farmer had no time for sports" - and some weight-training he did as a small, slightly built

In those days, he was a junior with



Marc Overmars will probably play in three positions this season - left and right wing and, if necessary, just behind the striker or strikers

Photograph: Colorsport

Go Ahead Eagles. Unlike most Ajax graduates, he did not come through the celebrated system but joined, at 19, from Willem II. No sooner did he arrive than the team took off, winning everything available.
"We were only 22, 23 and we were

so confident, every game we would go on the pitch whistling, expecting to win 3-1 or 4-1. And we were so popular, everywhere we went. It was unbelievable." His eyes are full of the happy memories but then his voice drops as he adds "but it is impossible to keep a team at that kind

Ravaged by Bosman, Ajax fell from grace, barely making the Uefa Cup last May as players came and went. Eventually Overmars joined the exodus consummating a move to Arsenal which had been long fore-"I spoke to Dennis Bergkamp

many times, though his being here was not the reason I came. He said he was much more settled than in Italy and felt good. I think this is a country where I can be successful and enjoy the football. When I see the Italian game it is like chess. I don't like playing against them as there is so much emphasis on defence."

reverted to a 4-4-2 system. "I do more running but I expect that," he said. more space, with Ajax we were al-"I used to be a midfielder at 15, 16 ways pushing to get through as

so I am used to it. I have been told I have three positions, left and right wing or, when Ian [Wright] or Den-nis are suspended or injured, I could play in the middle behind the centre-forward." Although two-footed, he expresses a slight preference for the left whence he bewildered Norwich in Arsenal's 6-2 win on

Monday night. He has already noticed a few differences. "The speed of the game is much quicker. Even in training it is very fast. At Ajax we have a few Overmars will start the season on the left flank for Arsenal, who have for the moment. Here it is so quick mistakes are made. There is also

other teams defended with 10 against us.'

He also believes the refereeing is lenient, though his team-mates, after 83 Premiership bookings and six dismissals last year, may not agree. Overmars, who has had one yellow card in his career, said: "When they kick me around my personality is not such that I get angry. I stand up and walk away. I am not a diver either, I prefer to try and score."

Overmars first came to prominence in England for winning the penalty which earned the Dutch a 2-2 draw in a World Cup qualifier at Wembley. It was won after he demonstrated his pace by skinning Des Walker. That pace is a big com-

ponent of his game and there were naturally fears that he would lose it when he suffered a serious knee injury early last year.

"I have done tests since and I am just as fast as before. Personally, I was never afraid I would not recover, it was simply a matter of time. I tried to get back for Euro '96 but it was impossible

While it was not nice. I learned from the experience. Not playing for six to eight months makes you much hungrier when you start again. You need the bad times to appreciate the good. With Ajax we won so many prizes we did not enjoy it properly. We won the European Cup and a day later we were training as normal and

'I want to win prizes. I am used to doing that every year. I am 24 and young and hungry'

we thought: 'We should enjoy this' That was not always easy under Louis van Gaal, the then Ajax coach who has joined Barcelona. He does have a temper," confirmed Overmars. There were many times we were meeting after the game on a Monday when he got so angry his face went red. But he is so good as a coach. From player No 1 to No 20 he gives everyone the same time, the same feeling that he is important. The quality of him was that he could see what you were doing

wrong and get you training on it. He was my trainer for five years. He bought me and improved me a lot. He demands a lot but you have to admire his energy. Every day he was shen. He never missed anything in training

"But there were times when there were too many orders. After a while you wanted to do some things by instinct not the system."

And so to a Highbury great with expectation. "I don't feel under pressure because I expect things from myself also. When I was 18. Willem bought me for a lot of money, it was not a problem for me. Nor when Ajax

"I want to win prizes. I am used to doing that every year. I am 24 and young and hungry. For me there are two important prizes, the League and the Cup. There is also the Coca-Cola and, yes, Europe, but it is not the Champions' League '

That last line gives away the stan-dards this small, neat and composed man is used to. Looking through his words he appears ar: gant, but that has not come across in person as we have sat in the Hertfordshire hotel where he temporarily lodges. The afternoon is to be spent house-hunting in the local villages. Rumours that he is a playboy appear unfounded as he says: "I come from a small village and prefer to live in the country. I like to see the sights but London is so big, even Amsterdam is big for me."

He leaves with the complaint

"the houses are so expensive round here". It is an odd comment for a highly paid star, but not for a farmer's son brought up to seek value for money and also to provide it. Arsenal may have found a diamond.

lavenport b

Barch of CE

Bringing colour to the Black Country

ever more routine in Eng-lish football, it seems unexceptional for a dreadlocked Dutchman and a bespectacled Frenchman to be managing maior clubs in the cosmopolitan capital. The advent of a chunky. chain-smoking Scandinavian at Walsall may take more getting used to.

If Jan Sorensen, who is into his second month at Bescot Stadium, was not quite a Rund Gullit as a player, he certainly boasts a more impressive CV than Arsène Wenger. A playmaker in the mould of his fellow Dane Jan Molby, Sorensen was in the Club Bruges side which lost to Liverpool in the 1978 European Cup final. Six years later, following

Graeme Souness' departure to Sampdoria, Sorensen was close to taking his place at Anfield. There were also spells with Ajax (under Johan Cruyff) and Feyenoord, as well as numerous caps for the emerging Denmark side in the company of Allan Simonsen, Soren Lerby and Jesper Olsen.

Scepticism was nevertheless rife when Walsall, a middling Second Division outfit, unveiled

s the remarkable becomes Chris Nicholl's successor. It was not just that they had en-trusted their fortunes to a foreigner with no grounding in the domestic game or in management. The word was that he was a timeshare salesman from

years away before going to New-castle and I'm a bigger name than him in Europe," he says, tongue not obviously in cheek.

There is no attempt, either. to deny that he has been domiciled in the aforementioned town for five years, having married a Midlands girl he met while living in Portugal. That, he believes, was Walsall's good fortune rather than something to apologise for.

in the Algarve, where there's not much to do except get drunk in a bar, play golf or try to earn

Tamworth. Sorensen, now 42, separates fact and fiction with a hearty laugh and in near-perfect English. He was indeed out of the game for eight years. "Then again Kevin Keegan had seven

Yet the timeshare bit is, he suggests, somewhat fanciful. "After I stopped playing I lived THE UNKNOWN IMPORT

Phil Shaw meets Jan Sorensen, the Dane who wants to make Walsall great

few years I was European mar- or someone that's proved himketing manager for a tenpin self at everything he's done?" bowling company.' How did he make the leap

from that to preparing to kick off at the FA Cup semi-finalists, Chesterfield, today? "The football kept coming back to me. I watched dozens of matches last season at all levels. So when this job came up I wrote to the chairman [Jeff Bonser]. I asked what be had to lose by speaking to me for an hour.

"He invited me for a chat and it went on for about five hours. They checked me out in a way that probably no other candidate was, but I was happy with that because it meant their decision was the right one. They seemed to like my ideas, plus the fact that I've got contacts on the Continent, which is important now.

"People say Walsall are tak-ing a risk, but I say I was the safest bet. What makes more some money. I sold real estate for a major British property company, though for the past who's been sacked a few times.

which he is steeped.

Walsali's set-up was already surprisingly European. The general manager, Paul Taylor, takes care of the scouting system, transfer negotiations and players' contracts. Sorensen and Derek Mountfield, whom he re-signed as player-coach weeks after Nicholl released him, are free to concentrate on the team.

Sorensen soon demonstrated a realistic streak in his revolutionary spirit, bringing the squad back in after lunch instead of letting them practise their putting or go shopping. "I've tried to get across to them that it's better to have a shit month now and be able to cruise through the season than to be constantly trying to catch up on fitness levels."

Before beginning ball work in earnest, Sorensen put his players through two weeks of rigorous running. He is adamant that stamina and discipline are

Bergkamp last season, but he is

prerequisites for playing the ball, as exemplified by Cruyff one-touch, attacking style in and Co. "You could say that,"

"You can't expect Second Division players to perform like Premiership stars. But you can still aspire to do it and I have a feeling my players fancy going for it. The British have always been good at the physical side but less so the tactical and the technical, though it's definitely improved in the last few years."

Crewe, under Dario Gradi, won promotion from Walsall's level adhering to what Sorensen hails as pure football values. However, it was Bury, "a very powerful side", who took the title. Although that fact tempers his idealism, mention of top scorer Kyle Lightbourne's £500,000 switch to Coventry provokes an example of the positive thinking that led Walsall to choose him ahead of Willie Donachie, Gordon Cowans and

Frank Stapleton.
"Kyle did brilliantly last season, but other sides were able to say: 'Stop him and we'll probably stop Walsall scoring.' That made us easier to defend against. I want us to score goals from all over the team. Sounds not unlike Total FootSorensen says. "Put it this way, I won't complain if my right-back scores 15 this season.

In reality, he will be look more to a French striker – Basile Boli's brother, Roger – whose capture this week has fuelled his natural optimism. "I haven't promised my chairman we'll go up this season. Our budget isn't the biggest, to say the least, but I do intend to do it within my two-year contract.

"Why not? There's 300,000 people in Walsall, so we'd pack the place out if Wolves, West Brom and Stoke were coming here in the First Division. And I don't plan to leave after that because the club would give me such a damn good contract that I'd have to stay!"

The hype and hopes of August often turn to sawdust by September, but Sorensen is sure he will not buckle under the legendary pressure of his new profession. "I thrive on stress," he asserts. "It can be a positive thing, to get the adren-alin going. It was fun doing a million-pound deal in the commercial world, but I'd sooner win 3-0."



Jan Sorensen: 'People say Walsall are taking a risk, but I say I was the safest bet'

Photograph: Peter Jay

Last season: 1.0. Last five League matches:
Leicester LLDWW; Aston Ville LDDW;
Leicester LLDWW; Aston Ville LDDW;
Leicester S Taylor is out for the season after a training injury yesterday.
Fernton will make his debut white Guppy has shaken off an ankle injury.
Collymore makes his Villa Premiership debut, while Bosnich is struggling ankle). Oakes is on stand-by. Defender Staunton is suspended.

Last season: 1-2. Last five League matches: Total tentam LDWL; Man United WDDDW.

Spurs are without new signing Dominguez, who has not yet got clearance, and also miss the injured Anderton and Amistrong, hersen will partner Ferdinand up front. Alex Farguson will field his Charity Shield-winning side, which will mean a return to White Hart Lane for Sheringham.

Leicester v Aston VIIIa

When it was reported that Paul Merson was to be sold to Middlesbrough, most Arsenal fans simply could not believe that the story was true. The first I knew of the transfer was via a phone call from a gleeful Tottenham supporter who clearly felt that Merson's departure was potentially as dam-aging to Arsenal as the loss of Teddy Sheringham was to Spurs

Merson was the Arsenal player most coveted by Tottenham fans, his inventive skills more in keeping with Totten-ham's traditions than Arsenal's. During his 11 years at Highbury, Merson had lit up many a dreary Arsenal performance. He was a match-winner. He could go past defenders, he could create goalscoring chances for others and he could score goals himself, many of them spectacular.

Moreover, Merson is Arsenal through and through. He may have supported Chelsea as a boy, but as far as Arsenal fans are concerned the Merse is fessed his addictions to booze, gambling and cocaine two years

Tongot a masterstroke.

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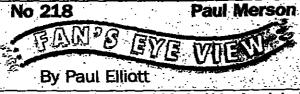
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Tongot a masterstroke as a masterstroke acclaimed as a masterstroke acclaimed as a masterstroke.



by him. Their faith was re- as one of the strongest midfield warded when Merson returned to peak form in the past two

Arsenal men, the kind of play- ka, Upson, Boa Morte, Maners who keep the Gunners' leg-endary team spirit alive. So why did Arsène Wenger sell Merson? So far, the Arsenal manager's explanations have sure from the Arsenal board to good years in him?

Wenger's first questionable players at the club. decision as Arsenal manager.
Until now, his transfer dealings have few Arsenal fans comhave met with universal approval among Gunners fans.

Wenger's first signing – Patrick as England captain, but has Wenger's first signing – Patrick as England captain, but has Above all else, Arsenal fans may

ago, the club and the fans stood Vieira is widely acknowledged players in the Premiership. peak form in the past two asons. Wenger has continued to buy wisely, strengthening the squad with a mixture of youth (Anelninger) and experience (Garde, Overmars, Petit), but was it necessary to sell Merson? Wenger insists that there was no pres-

The sale of Merson is was still among the better

proved insufficient. Certainly, as sell the player, so why do so?

Wenger stressed, £4.5m is a lot of money for a 29-year-old, but surely Merson still has a few good years in him?

sell the player, so why do so?

If Arsenal are to challenge for the Premiership title this season they need the strongest squad possible and Merson

still a better player than Platt.
Arsenal fans shed no tears when Wenger offloaded David Hillier, Eddie McGoldrick and Steve Morrow - mediocre footballers to a man. The Arsenal team had been full of such players during the latter part of George Graham's reign but Paul Merson was different. Merson, like Ian Wright, could win a game with one incisive piece of skill. It is conceivable that Arsenal have seen the best of Paul Merson, but if Wright can still perform to Premiership standard at 33, why not Mer Of course, if Arsenal win the

Premiership next May, Paul Merson will not be missed. That's football, after all. Nobody pined for departed heroes like Anders Limpar or David Rocastle when the Gunners lifted three cups between 1993 and 1994. However, if Wenger's Arsenal fail to win a trophy this season, questions will be asked in the public houses around N5.

TEAM SHEET Lest season: No corresponding fidure. Last five League matches: Bernsley WDUML: West Ham DWWDL. Long-term injury victim Davis is the only player missing from the Bernsley squad, which includes five new signings for their first Premisership match, while West Ham are without Hall and Dicks. Hammers' full-back Breacker is included, despite only being 80 per-cent fit. Blackburn v Derby

Last season: 1-2. Last five League matches: Blackburn DWLDL; Derby WLDW.

Blackburn's Berg joins Flowers (goin) and Shewood (suspended) on the sidelbing Costleeper Flan will make his debut. Derby are without Asanovic (harrissing) but Jim Smith will introduce wing back branto and striker Balano, Burton looks set to start on the bench.

Newcastie v Sheffield Wed
Last season: 1-2. Last five League matches: Newcastle WWDW; Sheffield Wednesday WLLD.

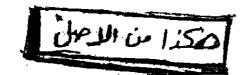
New signings Given, Pearce, Pistone, Ketsbaia and Torrasson could all start for Newcastle. Shearer, Peacock and Hamilton are injured, while Gillespie is suspended, Wednesday are without Booth (Greef and Hirst (suspended). Record signing Di Carilo may start on the bench while Blondeau starts. Last season: No corresponding fidure: Last five League matches: Southampton WDWWL; Bolton WWDWD.
Southampton's Le Tissier is out with a broken elibow, others missing findide Dodd, Lundewam and Neison. Johansen, Johansen Todd could make debuts. Bolton are without players' player of the year Fairclough. Slight, signed from Newcastle for £2.5m, will start. Coventry v Chelsea
Last sessor: 3-1. Last five Ledgue matches: Coventry WDDLW: Chelsea LWWDW,
Record signing Le Saux could join Flo. De Goey and Poyet in making their
Premiership debuts; but Bebayaro and Lambourde are out with groin injuries. Softwelt will start alongside McAllister in the Coventry midfield, but
out-of-contract Richardson will not play. Wimbledon v Liverpool
bledon LiDww; Liverpool DLWLD.

Goodman (anke) is the only player missing from the Wimbledon squad.
Hughes could make his debut and Earle has recovered from injury. Barries is likely to lose his place in the Liverpool midfield to Thomas and McAteer to Jones. Leonhardsen, Kvarme, Fowler and Benger are all injured.

Everton v Crystal Palace
Last seeson: No corresponding todure. Last five League
matches: Everton WOUL! Palace WOWWO.
Everton will give Speed (calf) a tete fitness test, but new signings Oster.
Farely, Thornes and Billic — who is set to be named captain — are fit.
Parkinson; Grant and Hinchcliffe are all loyured. Warfurst will make his Palace
debut, as will Lombardo as his registration has now been processed.

Leeds v Arsenal Last season: 0-0, Last five League matches: Leeds Last season: U-U, Last twe League matches: Leads
LDDDD; Arsanal WDDLW.
Hassehaink, Hopkin, Haland, Robertson and Ribeiro all make their Leeds
debuts, but George Graham is without Sharpe and Jackson. Arsanal are without Adams (suspended), while Grahandi faces a late test. Keown and Obon
are Injured — Upson and Marshell stand by and Overmars and Petit will start.





FOOTBALL KICKS-OFF

sport

Law changes for 1997-98

Law Five - The referee

restart of play

Law Four - Players' equipment If thermal shorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as

Ensures that any player bleed-ing from a wound leaves the field

Law Eight - The start and

The team which wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick-off to

*Preparing for a season of boom or bust

Glenn Moore looks ahead to the ups and downs of the forthcoming 50 weeks of action

For a few days this summer the plans of Premiership managers were thrown into disarray. They waited, mobile phones in hand, fruit the British Airways strike was lifted and they could go

shopping again.
The immediate results of their £60m summer spree on overseas players will be visible this afternoon as new recruits from Portugal to Georgia, but mostly from Scandinavia, open the new season.

They will run out in freshly painted stadiums, to the cheers of newly replica-kitted supporters, and all will seem right on planet football.

Down in the basement, however, at places like Scarborough and Exeter, anxious chairmen will be counting the takings and pndering whether a clutch of hee transfers from their rivals' reserves will somehow create enough interest to turn a profit come May.

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PODE NAME

The game is in the midst of a boom, but it is also on the brink of bankruptcy. As this week's Deloitte & Touche report underlined, the game's wealth is increasingly being concentrated within the Pre-

The combined turnover of Manchester United and Newcastle United, for example, exceeds that of all 48 clubs in the lower two divisions.

The boom is largely down to Sky Television who, this year, will pay Premiership clubs £175m for the right to show their matches. This is 60 times higher than ecade ago. Undoubtedly this wéalth has primarily been a force for good. The new and revamped grounds, the Bergkamps and Zolas, the increase in spectators of both sexes, all stem from this input. guing about dividing the spoils.



Ready for action: A groundsman at Cambridge United prepares the Abbey stadium pitch for the start of the season

months.

But opportunities are being missed - in the last 12 months £120m has been lost to the English game in transfer fees paid overseas. Vast amounts have also been spent on players' wages and agents' commissions. Used more wisely, this money could have been used to improve facilities and youth development throughout the game.

The Premiership chairmen have agreed to pay £5m a year to the Football Trust and the same to the Nationwide League for youth development, but this largesse is still only six per cent of their Sky income. There may be further grants as, despite six months' debate, they are still ar-

government's football task force to address, although one suspects this well-intended but illconsidered initiative will soon founder through lack of teeth and poor leadership. It is hard to see how David Mellor can force clubs to reduce admission prices while there are people like himself prepared to pay them, or what he has in com-

While the conclusion of the Winchester court case has removed one festering sore, we still await the bung inquiry's report more than a year after being assured by Rick Parry, then the Premier League's chief ex-

for the terraces.

mon with those fans still pining

This may be an subject for the ecutive, that it would be out countries) means the tournawithin a fortnight. Apparently ment is likely to be followed it has been with the lawyers for

On a more positive note,

November sees the Football Association Council consider Howard Wilkinson's Charter for Quality, which seeks to redress 30 years' misjudgment in the coaching of young players. By then, England may have qualified for the World Cup if so, one hopes the council do not use it as an excuse to resist. As the season goes on, the World Cup will increasingly dominate thoughts. The globalisation of the English game (the Premiership has 133 for-

eign players representing 37

more closely than ever. England, if they qualify, have an outside chance of making the final but, given the proximity of France, there will be almost as much resting on the performance of the fans as the

Before then, we have a domestic campaign to savour with a quintet of high-spending clubs threatening Manchester United's hegemony at home, while there is also room for optimism abroad.

While changes in the structure will make it harder for British clubs to progress in the likely to try an experiment lat-Champions' League, Liverpool, er in the season. By the early

Chelsea and Arsenal look years of the next century, strong enough to ensure English interest in Europe well digital television could be established with every game avail-

The fortunes of the latter two will be followed by Channel Five, who have become the latest company to pin their fortunes on football. Advertising executives seem as besotted as those in television and it is hard to recall the days when football was so unloved it was restricted to two television highlights programmes, a couple of boys' magazines and a page or

into the new year.

two in the newspaper. Next on the television agenda is pay-per-view, with Sky

start the match. A goal may be scored from the The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

Law 12 - Fools and misconduct

An indirect free-kick is awarded if a goalkeeper handles the ball after receiving it from a throw-in from his own team.
Unsporting behaviour has replaced ungentiemantly conduct as a cautionable offence.

Faiting to respect the required dis-

tance when play is restarted and delaying the restart of the play have become cautionable of-The International Football Asso-

ciation Board decisions 13 and 14, which relate to the denial of obvious goal-scoring opportunities, have now become law. Using offensive, insulting or abu-sive language has replaced foul or abusive language.

Law 13 - Free-kicks The ball is in play when it is kicked

Law 14 - The penalty kick The defending goalkeeper re-mains on his goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts un-til the ball has been kicked. The phrase "without moving his feet" has been deleted.

Players who enter the penalty area before the ball has been kicked need not now be cau-

Law 16 - The goal kick A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick.

Law 17 - The corner kick The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest comer flag

The ball is in play when it is locked

1: Referees must not permit goalkeepers to take more than four steps while holding the ball

2: If the goalkeeper holds the ball for longer than 5 to 6 seconds.

the referee must adjudge it as

time-wasting and award an in-direct free-kick.

Mandatory

instructions to referees

as stipulated in Law 12.

...and three with something to prove

Stan Collymore

Aston Villa

Jason Euell Wimbledon

Age: 20. Prem apps: 16. Injuries, and the Efan Ekoku partappearances last vear but although. competition for ense, this South

Londoner could make the breakthrough.

Emile Heskey - Continued progress highlighted by last-minute Coca-Cola Cup final equaliser.

The outstanding player in a crop of promising Stamford Bridge. He may be small of stature but has poise and confidence to

Prem apps: 13.

David Beckham - Young player of the year, a fixture for England. Hard to believe his club place was in doubt last August.

play alongside the Zolas and Di Mat-

Three players to watch this season....

Jody Morris

Chelsea



David Watson

Barnsley

Premiershio. One concern is his height, at 5ft 11in he is short for a modern goalkeeper.

David Ginola Tottenham

Was losing his way at Newcastle even before Kevin Keegan went. White Hart Lane's traditions will be to his liking but not Gerry Francis

emphasis on

work-rate. Has a World Cup place to aim for but little chance of getting it. and nursemaid.

No excuses now for missing training, nor for wasting his talent. Villa, the club he watched as a bov, may prove

the ideal stage for this complicated man, and Brian Little the perfect mix of tutor

Andy Cole - Goals remained scarce after pneumonia and Neil Ruddock cut season in half. Remains on trial.

David Platt - Discarded by England, continued Injury problems. A move to Middlesbrough seems Imminent.

Given up smoking in an attempt to regain his

place after the summer shock of finding no one wanted to buy him. Looking

sham but now has Tore Andre

Flo to contend with as well as Gianfranco Zola and Mark Hughes. .. and the verdict on last season's players with something to prove

Photograph: Brian Harris

able - at a price - and Premiership clubs rich beyond

Even then, however, money

will not guarantee success. That

is why Middlesbrough and

Manchester City are in the Na-

tionwide League and Barnsley

and Wimbledon in the Carling

the heart of football's success

and, while it is hard to see

Barnsley finishing above Man-

chester United, with so many

largely unknown foreigners in-

volved this season could see

more surprises than ever.

Gianluca Vialli

Chelsea

This unpredictability is at

even current dreams.

Premiership.

3: Under no circumstances may the referee take part in any experiment either with the laws or with anything else, such as weating a microphone during the weeking a microphone curing and maken, without proper authon-

Davenport back in search of century

How Glenn Moore's 1996-97 players to watch fared...

Andy Gray - Disappeared amid Injury and management upheaval at Leeds

Vationwide League

Reminiscent of a young lan Wright.

The 19th Football League sea-constants today with a new club, Maciesfield Town, fielding a fa-day safety and a peter Davenport, the sayer-coach – who stands on 97 League goals. While he will be trying to

bring up his century in a home match against Torquay in the Third Division, Chris Waddle will be making his debut as a player-manager, with Burnley. He will be taking on a Watford side whose fortunes are in the hands of Graham Taylor, the one-time England manager who did not recognise Waddle's international qualities.

Bryan Robson, the former England captain, believes his Middlesbrough squad can win promotion back to the Premiership at the first attempt. They begin their First Division Impaign against Charlton at the Riverside.

Boro, galvanised by the signing of Paul Merson, are the favourites to win the title. "I believe I have the best squad in the First Division," he said. "I

would not swap my squad for

Manchester City's £3.5m striker, Lee Bradbury, will partner Uwe Rösler in attack against his former club, Portsmouth, at Maine Road. Another former Portsmouth player, Kit Symons. has shaken off a flu virus and Rösler has recovered from a slight hamstring strain. But Martyn Margetson retains his place in goal as Tommy Wright, the Northern Ireland international,

has a leg injury. John Aloisi, an Australian international firward signed from Cremonese for £300,000 this week, is in line to make his Portsmouth debut. His fellow Australian, Hamilton Thorp, could also play his first match, but Russell Perrett is ruled out of the defence with a knee injury.

exactly 40 years ago - they won

17-year-old Irish forward, Robbie Keane, against Norwich City at Carrow Road.

Celtic must beware the other Rangers

Scottish League

Celtic's chief coach, Wim Jansen, is confident that his side will put aside thoughts of Europe and concentrate on their Coca-Cola Cup challenge that begins today with a second-round match against Berwick Rangers at Hearts' Tynecastle Park. A much tougher away as-

for the first leg of their Uefa Cup preliminary round tie against Tirol Innsbruck. "First things first," Jansen

Steve Stone looks likely to start his comeback from serious injury in Nottingham Forest's match against Port Vale. Last time they played at Vale Park

Wolves give a debut to their

signment awaits Celtic on Tuesday, when they travel to Austria

said. "We have a job to do against Berwick before the players can think of Europe. I'm confident we will have the right attitude. We only have to carry on from how we played on Wednesday in the 1-0 friendly win against Roma. The Berwick game is another good opportunity to show what we can do - it is an important match for us."

Jansen's main injury concern ahead of the game is the fitness of the French international Stéphane Mahé, who has an ankle injury. Regi Blink-

er, who arrived as part of the ex-change deal which took Paolo Di Canio to Sheffield Wednesday in midweek, is expected to make his debut.

Berwick's manager, Jimmy Thomson, hoped the former Celtic goalkeeper, Pat Bonner. would join his side, but the former Repubic of Ireland international rejected the move.

Thomson said: "Tm confident the players I have will we be professional and not let everyone down. I'm not going to stand here and say we will beat Celtic, but the players will do them-selves proud."

Dumbarton's manager, Ian Wallace, hopes for the same level of commitment as his side meet his former club, Aberdeen, at Boghead.

"It is a big game for me personally, but hopefully my players can show people that while we might be in Third Division we can play," he said. "I've signed a three-year deal here and intend to see it out. I'm happy that Dumbarton are moving forward and see this as the ideal place to learn the trade of management - with the next les-

Phelan forgiven by **McCarthy**

Juninho - Outstanding in a losing cause. Proved ability to everyone.

The Everton defender Terry Phelan will not be punished by the Republic of Ireland manager, Mick McCarthy, for going missing prior to the World Cup qualifier with Liechtenstein in Dublin in May.

Phelan, who was in the squad named yesterday to face Lithuania in another qualifier at Lausdowne Road on 20 August, had suffered a broken bone in his hand and thought his club had informed McCarthy that he would not be available.

"Terry has since apologised to me," said McCarthy, who is without the Sheffield United goalkeeper Alan Kelly and the Wimbledon striker Jon Goodman, both injured, and the suspended Liverpool midfielder Jason McAteer. Two players are dropped - the Oldham goalkeeper Gary Kelly and the Mill-wall midfielder Dave Savage.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, will hold more talks with the former England captain David Platt next week to persuade the Ar-senal midfielder to move north. A £1.5m fee has been agreed. but Robson said: "I have not yet discussed personal terms. David has a few things to sort out and we decided not to rush it."

Middlesbrough have been fined £25,000 by the Football Association for their poor disciplinary record last season. Leicester have sealed the £1.1m transfer of the 23-yearold forward Graham Fenton from Blackburn, while Wolves

The Everton striker Duncan Ferguson has signed a new fiveyear contract, tying himself to the club until 2002.

is the key to its popularity

New Labour, new season. Just as Tony Blair's government swept into power in May on the crest of a wave of optimism, promising to be more dynamic and last longer than any previous government, so the new football season bursts into life this afternoon promising to be more spectacular and last longer - it won't reach its conclusion until next year's World Cup final on 12 July - than any

of its predecessors. The beauty of it is that, with last season's slate wiped clean, none of us really have the re- by topping the Premiership at the football's popularity.

government is guaranteed to Attilio Lombardo) and Coven- the fizzy one, that is - and Alex suffer its fair share of crises dur- try, who come May will reac- Ferguson to start his habitual ing its term in office, so certain quaint themselves with Houdini. campaign to get an extension to events occur each season without which... well, it would be balanced on paper but less so on

to potential sponsors).

Olivia Blair

The unpredictability of football



unpredictability is the key to Ray Wilkins will be momentar- fixture list, causing Premierily inspired by a player more fol-ship chairmen to make noises Having said that, just as any lically challenged than him in about pulling out of the cup-Aston Villa, so wonderfully the season.

stamped his mark on the season and David Ginola will backheel Kendall. by running his studs down Gus- beautifully until November. tavo Poyet's face in the Chari- when his indifference will have sociation will cause the nationty Shield, eliciting the inevitable Alan Sugar mumbling under his al press to cry exploitation when defence from his manager of breath about Carlos Kickabalis, it launches a World Cup com-

mark. It's a safe bet that some of will he, won't he debate over tie on Match of the Day. time this season Wright will find his role in Rome, will last 45 Plus ça change. At least himself hauled in front of the minutes, give the ball away for there'll be no more onling and and Sunderland.

to complain about Rangers winning everything. The Scot tish national team will contest the title of most goal-shy team with Leeds, while Wales will continue their search for goalkeepers with second cousins born in Swansea.

Use of the word "giantkiller" will reach unprecedented levels as the third round of the FA Cup approaches in January but, for the second consecutive year, no non-League club is likely to progress beyond the third round. By this time, the words "win-

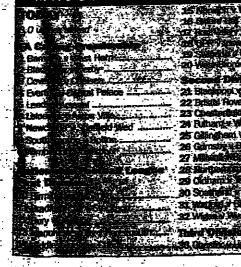
motest idea who the winners end of August but eventually find ter break" will have reared and losers over the next 50 themselves battling against the their ugly heads again as the weeks will be. That wonderful drop with Crystal Palace (where weather causes havoc with the

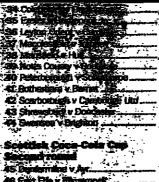
Bobby Robson and Johan football, but not as we know it. grass, will suffer from the erratic Cruyff will be linked with the The season has barely seen nature of Stan Collymore's managerial vacancy at every big the light of day, yet we've al- timekeeping and Savo Milose- club going, as well as at Everton, ready had a couple of familiar vic's finishing. At Spurs, Darren where Howard Kendall fails to incidents: David James and Ian Anderton will make his come-lift the cloud of despondency Walker dropping clangers in back but break down again hanging over Goodison just as pre-season matches; and Roy when someone writes his name every Everton manager before Keane, who quite literally too heavily on the team sheet, him has failed since, er. Howard

Elsewhere, the Football As-Keane as "the most complete Matt Le Tissier will score the memorative England strip in player in the Premiership". goal of the season in Septemtime for the Christmas rush, Another of the most comber, spark off a campaign for his Reading will sign their 12th plete players in the Premiership inclusion in England's team to keeper in 13 seasons and Trevor is Ian Wright, who becomes play Italy, and do little else of Brooking will keep harping on rather less than complete when note for the rest of the season. about "my old team West Ham" he oversteps the disciplinary Ditto Gazza, who, after weeks and wearing his claret and blue

Football Association (the very Italy's opening goal and spend ashing at Old Trafford, and organisation that has just paid the rest of his season being dear old Ronny Rosenthal is no him a hefty sum to promote it linked with moves to Everton longer around to miss his usual hatful of sitters down at Barnsley, like many unknown In Scotland, Rangers will White Hart Lane, Strangely, he entities before them, will rede- beat Celtic at New Year and run will be missed. The words "devfine the notion of beginners' back away with their 10th consecutive il you know" spring to mind.

EPENDEN





A WARD VANE ...

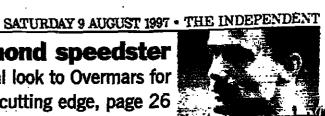
Hiberolan v Alca

ER Lhindren v Hears.

48 Partick y Stirling Albion ...

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

have completed the £200,000 signing of the Finnish international striker Mixu Paatelainen from Bolton.



£5m Le Saux back at Chelsea for big kick-off

Chelsea saved one of the summer's biggest transfer coups for the eve of the new season, resigning Graeme Le Saux from Blackburn for £5m in time for him to play in today's Premier-

ship opener at Coventry. Le Saux, rated at a mere £650,000 when he was shunted out of Chelsca by Dave Webb in 1993 in part exchange for Steve Livingstone, had been valued at £7m by Blackburn. Arsenal backed off, but Ruud Gullit succeeded with a reduced offer.

The England wing-back, 28, drove to London overnight, passed a medical at lam and an hour later became the FA Cup holders' record buy at £100,000 more than Roberto Di Matteo. Their managing director. Colin Hutchinson, admitted: "Selling him was a mistake which has taken four and a half years and £5m to rectify.

Phil Shaw keeps track of all the new faces in new places as the 1997-98 Premiership season kicks-off today

In his previous spell at Stam-ford Bridge, Le Saux's Channel Island origins earned the dressing-room moniker "Bergerac". The composition of Cheisea's squad under Gullit is now such that the joke would be lost on his new colleagues, who are more

likely to nickname him "English". The polyglot trend is by no means confined to Chelsea. Tottenham also unveiled a late recruit in Jose Dominguez, the Subbuteo-sized winger who played for Birmingham before joining Sporting Lisbon and winning caps for Portugal Spurs paid £1.6m to take him from under Southampton's noses.

Dominguez is ineligible to

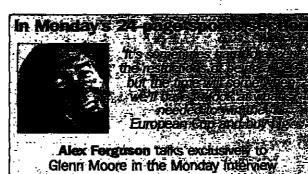
face Manchester United tomorrow. There is, however, an abundance of exotic new names striving to burn their way into the popular consciousness. much as Fabrizio Ravanelli did with his hat-trick 12 months ago.

On the opening day of the 1995-96 season, after a youthful Manchester United lost at Aston Villa, Alan Hansen made an assertion that came back to haunt him: "You win nothing with kids." The question tonight - particularly pertinent to Ar-senal as well as Chelsea - may be whether it is possible to win the championship with a team largely made up of foreigners. Even Barnsley, whose badge

depicts a British bulldog, have recruited almost exclusively overseas in preparation for their first campaign at the highest lev-el. After being patronised by media luvvies, working through a shopping list of clichés stretching from Michael Parkinson and Dickie Bird to mining and whippets, Danny Wilson's team will be more eager than most for

the end of the phony war. Oakwell's inaugural Premiership visitors, West Ham, begin as they did last August, ravaged by injury. They were then bereft of forwards; now it is defenders, a problem Harry Redknapp hopes to alleviate by giving Danny Williamson plus £1m for Everton's David Uns-

Of the quintet who have filled the top positions for the past two years, Arsenal and Newcastle will parade most



Plus: Reports on every Premiership matery and That Was The Washand That Was, our alternative look at the footballing week new faces. The Gunners' visit to Leeds is the fourth time Arsène Wenger has pitted his wits against George Graham, each

inning once. While a repeat of February's 0-0 stalemate at Elland Road would not surprise anyone who saw Leeds last season, Graham

bas the task of deputising for Alan Shearer - and Les Ferdinand, come to that - which will not necessarily be easier for Wednesday. The Colombian's off-the-cuff style makes him unplayable on his day. Liverpool's bid to finish top

Wednesday. Faustino Asprilla

for the first time since 1990 opens at Wimbledon, where one point of interest will be the identity of Roy Evans' captain. The smart money is on the self-styled "Guvnor", Paul Ince. John Barnes, having relinquished the armband, guested on Celebrity Ready, Steady Cook last night; whether he appears on Match of the Day must be

open to question.

Teddy Sheringham assumes Eric Cantona's mantle as Manchester United's link-man at White Hart Lane, and expects to be a sign of the champions to start against Sheffield a warm reception from his supremacy.

former fans. Perhaps less naïve-ly, the man who sold him, Gerry Francis, believes his job will be "on the line" if Spurs fail to win anything.

The indisposition of Chris Armstrong is a reminder that the first weekend seldom reveals much about long-term prospects. A year ago, he scored both Spurs' goals in the 2-0 win at Blackburn. None of the trio who were eventually relegated lost, Kevin Campbell hitting a hat-trick in Nottingham Forest canter at Coventry.

Leeds scored three - away whereas Alan Shearer failed to find the target. Wednesday embarked on a run of four wins and Wimbledon suffered the first of three defeats, although David Beckham's 60-yard strike against them did prove

Warne calls a halt to revival by England

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Trent Bridge Australia 427 England 188-4

From the moment the thermometer climbed above the 90-degree Fahrenheit mark, it was always likely to be a day for the unexpected. In hot, humid conditions more reminiscent of Brisbane than Nottingham, England fought their way back into a match with some of their best bowling of the series, taking seven Australian wickets for 125 runs. Like the good Lord, however, what this Australian team gives with one hand it takes away with the other, and by the close England were 188 for four, still some 40 runs

short of saving the follow-on. As ironics go it could not have been more cruel, and England, whose timing for seizing the moment is about as faulty as a two-bob watch, were essentially a day late. Had they managed to produce bowling of

S R weegh 5 Maccom 13 fours) 11 A Healy c A Holicolet b Malco (29 min, 18 balls, 3 fours) S K Warne c Thorpe b Malcom

that calibre 24 hours earlier, the destination of the Ashes might not have been so clear cut as it appeared last night.

However, on a ground where they have won just one of their last 10 Test matches, England's stock, briefly buoyed after their extraordinary morning with the ball, fell sharply once Shane Warne began to work the magic of old

The portents, if never entirely propitious after Australia's first innings total of 427, took their biggest denting when Alec Stewart was dismissed for 87. Restored to his favoured opening position and batting like the sublime strokeplayer we saw last winter. Stewart provided the lion's share of the century opening partnership he shared with Mike Atherton, their fourth together in Test matches.

On course for his first hundred against Australia, Stewart was, in the end, a victim of his own excesses. Having scored at almost a run a ball, and driven the Australian bowlers to distraction with his giorious strokeplay, his slash at Warne was an

5-4-1-0, 9-2-31-0, 2-0-5-0, 3-1-6-0; # | **Holiocks 7-0-24-0** (2-0-7-0, 5-0-17-0)

Progress: Second day: 350: 435 min, 103 overs. 408: 435 min, 112.3 overs. 408: 455 min, 112.3 overs. tunich: 405-8 (Reiffel 19, Gillegile 9) 115 overs. hashigar chosek: 2.06 pm. S R Wangh 50: 125 min, 77 bals, 9 fours.

Trent Bridge scoreboard

inglorious end to a memorable

innings.
It also brought a brilliant divng catch from wicketkeeper Ian Healy, who, recovering after the initial thick outside edge had proved too hot to handle, performed a neat twisting backwards dive to snare the rebound

With Atherton already a victim of the same combination, Warne began to warm to his task. Except for the latter stages of the Old Trafford match, he has not really had a bone-dry surface like this one to work with, and he quickly settled into the role of tormentor.

Once Stewart had departed. his generous flight began to make the ball drift and grip dangerously. It is these two factors that makes bim such a difficult prospect to play against, and the ball that removed Nasser Hus sain was about as perfect as a

leg-spinner's dismissal can get. Hussain, who normally plays spin well, had no answer to a ball that pitched on middle and leg and turned sharply to hit off-stump. If it was not quite as catachysmic as the one that Mike Gatting received at Old Trafford four years ago, its effect on the England dressing-room would have been no less demoralising.

When John Crawley followed soon after, caught by Healy down the leg-side when fending at a short ball from Glenn Mc-Grath, England's early momentum had drawn to a standstill

It could have been worse, and had Graham Thorpe not beaten Jason Gillespie's direct hit trying to scamper his first run, England could well have been following on, a prospect looking less likely since Adam Hollioake brought his steadying influence to bear over his occasionally hot-headed Surrey team-mate.



is looking to his new Dutch strik-

er, Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink, to

emulate a player he brought to

Highbury. Ian Wright is a goal machine," he said, "but hope-

Dalglish's six newcomers are set

At Newcastle, five of Kenny

fully we've got one here."

lan Healy makes a successful diving effort to catch Alec Stewart off Shane Warne at Trent Bridge yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

But if all prospects of victory had dwindled by the close, England's captain and bowlers must be given much credit for the way they raised their game. After a long hot Thursday, the England dressing-room would have been full of tired and dispirited

With morning haze perhaps helping the ball to swing, Australia simply had no answers to Dean Headley and Devon Malcolm, who took four and three wickets respectively, as they

performed an about-turn on their first day's efforts, when Australia had scored more than

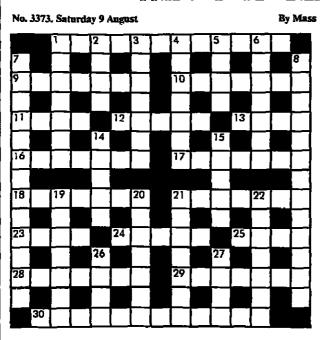
300 runs. Only Steve Waugh managed any semblance of dominance as Australia's middle-order was suddenly made to look frail. With brother Mark falling lbw in the middle of an excellent opening spell from Andrew Caddick, and Ricky Ponting dragging one on to his stumps, Steve was once again left to work his miracles with the tail.

He nearly managed it as well, eventually falling for 75 to a beauty from Malcolm that squared him up before remov-

ing his off-stump. As Waugh trudged off the ground, to the rancous delight of the capacity crowd, England once again began to taste those elusive sweet flavours of Edgbaston.

By the close though, and after Warne had played his part, a familiar bitter aftertaste had returned.

Co-sero is waugin, 8-419 (remen). Bowling: Minicolm 25-4-100-3 (w1) 60-119-0, 2-0-9-0, 5-2-16-0, 2-0-11-0, 3-0-15-0, 7-1-30-3); Heating 30.5-7-82-4, Perfect (nb3) (7-3-10-0, 7-0-28-1, 5-1-17-0, 3-0-17-0, 6-3-9-1, 2-5-0-6-2); Caddick 22-7-53-3. Unpires: C J Mitchiey and D R Shepherd. THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

OUPDETHEATRE

Last Saturday's solution O E A A N A

TOR MEH C

ACROSS Hyperbole ever develops 1

with speed in a wateringhole (12) Alien group likely to have

a field-day? (7) 10 Attached? Infatuated (5,2) 11 Secure Knight facing de- 4

(4) 16 Escorted old lady in (7) 7 17 Revoke? American's taken aback, in game, by 8 East (7)

18 Eating cut of meat with drink brought round (7) 14 Sap's dead wet (5) 21 Mild gum containing bint 15 One set, in spirit (5)

24 Hound's out of car, in the

29 Fly circling quiet study (7) 26 An attribute of prevalent 30 Sixth Form elite? (5,7) 27 Croaks? Not right for

DOWN Not the type to have a

flutter?... (7) ... Grand's very good invested in City (4) Brought into play? Ed-

ward's holding King back, note (7) Chemist's stiff mixture cline (4) put on edges of ulcer (7)
12 Further dam, mile off 5 It's just like Lily, having a drink (4)

13 Put up tent's second stay 6 Elected man harbouring Liberal idea (7) Like tough material, only partly worsted (4.3.3.3) Discount for European articles? I'm holding out

19 Pink fish (7) 23 Gin in one's mouth (4) 20 Vivid Greek character clad in trimmed elegance

25 Brief, short and formal 21 Island - reportedly rough one, getting about (7) 28 Loose ulna she fractured 22 Peer over letter, insensitive to the tone? (7)

depression (4)

these creatures (4) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursthe lives overest sources to has week's puzzie opened next 1 bursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions
to Saturday Crossword, P. Q. Box 4018, The Independent, I Camada Square,
Canary Wharf, London Eld SEL. Please use the box number and postcode
and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: R Langdon, Lower OddIngton; C Carless, Wareham; G Baker, Vioodstock; K Phillips, Reading
M Collins, London SW11.

Edwards claims a fourth silver for GB

Athletics

Jonathan Edwards failed to retain his triple jump title at the World Athletics Championships in Athens yesterday. Following the British pattern at the championships, Edwards had to settle for silver, the fourth such medal for a Briton this week. The 31-year-old Edwards has

been bothered by a heel injury for the last six weeks. His silver means that Britain's last realistic hope of a gold medal lies in tomorrow's 400 metres relay. Britain have won at least one gold in each of the five previous world championships.

Yesterday's triple jump gold went to the Cuban Yockvis Quesada with a jump of 17.85m. Edwards' leap of 17.69m secured his silver and another Cuban, Aliecer Urrutia, claimed the bronze in 17.64. Edwards also had to settle for silver at the

Olympics in Atlanta last year. Meanwhile, Trinidad's Ato Boldon claimed the first of what promises to be many major titles with a searing victory in the men's 200m. Boldon, who

was disappointed at finishing fifth in the 100m after complaining of muscle problems in his legs, came off the bend in front and stretched his lead over the last 100 metres to win by some five metres.

The Olympic bronze medal-list could afford the luxury of raising his arms in triumph as he crossed the line in 20.04sec. Namibia's former world champion Frankie Fredericks, who finished second at the last championships in 1995, took the silver again in 20.23, There was further disap-

pointment for Jamaica's Merlene Ottey, who was beaten in the women's 200m by the fast-finishing Ukranian Zhanna Pin-tusevich. Ottey made a superb start and looked on course for the title as she led for the first 150 metres, only to lose out with the finishing line in sight.

Pintusevich took the gold in 22.32 while Ottey then had to settle for bronze in 22.40 as she was outdipped on the line by Susanthika Jayasinghe, who ciaimed Sri Lanka's first-ever championship medal in 22.39, Reports, results, page 24

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, I E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford Back Issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370

A LANDMINE SHATTERED HER LIFE



soldier and a little sail. Hundreds And without support, they have

skills - which give hope, and the

By joining Diana, Princess of For a little girl like this it could make all the difference.

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